

## i-MiEV with attitude



### Mitsu powers up its EV with Sport coupe concept

By MARTON PETTENDY

**MITSUBISHI** used this morning's Sydney motor show opening to underline the recent release of Australia's first factory electric vehicle, the i-MiEV, by staging the local debut of a higher-performance coupe version dubbed the i-MiEV Sport.

The pioneering battery-powered five-door micro-hatch was launched in Australia in August, and more than 100 examples will have been leased to a range of corporate, academic and government 'foundation' customers by the end of this year.

Mitsubishi said the three-door i-MiEV Sport 'coupe' concept – first seen at the 2007 Tokyo motor show – provides a glimpse into its electric vehicle future by employing a more powerful electric drive system to power all four wheels underneath its lighter, sleeker and more sporting two-door body.

While the 970kg Sport concept retains the 1080kg i-MiEV hatch's mid-mounted 47kW/180Nm electric motor to drive its rear wheels, it adds a 20kW/250Nm

permanent magnetic synchronous motor in each front wheel to deliver a total torque output of 680Nm.

No acceleration figures are quoted, but the i-MiEV Sport is claimed to have a top speed of 180km/h – well up on the i-MiEV's electronically limited maximum of 130km/h.

It offers zero-emissions driving of up to 200km (up from 160km) with a fully charged lithium-ion battery pack, which is augmented by roof-mounted photovoltaic solar cells and a power-generating fan in the grille

Riding on futuristic 17-inch alloy wheels, the i-MiEV Sport has an aluminium spaceframe and measures 3450mm long, 1600mm wide and only 1400mm high.

Mitsubishi says the cab-forward i-MiEV fastback "promises genuine sporting capabilities" while "maximising the sporty possibilities of the zero-emissions electric vehicle" to deliver high levels of both environmental and running performance.

