



## Portuguese Authorities and Pininfarina agree to...

Portuguese Authorities and Pininfarina agree to find solutions to develop and produce an innovative modular hybrid to foster a new cycle in Portuguese automotive industry.

The Portuguese Minister for the Economy, Luís Braga da Cruz, along with Sergio Pininfarina, Chairman of the Pininfarina Group, met today to analyse the interim results of the P3 Project, which has been underway since the signing of a contract between the Portuguese Authorities and Pininfarina Studi e Ricerche S.p.A., at the beginning of the current year.

Working sessions, among which will include a meeting with the Prime Minister, Antonio Guterres, aim to evaluate the contribution the project might make towards a new phase in the automobile industry in Portugal. The project's objective is to foster greater productivity within the sector, namely through an increased involvement in the design, development and engineering of products.

Interim results, to be presented at a meeting in Sintra, Portugal to an international group of specialists and representatives of the industry, point to the development of a new vehicle concept, and eventually to an approach involving an innovative, flexible, modular hybrid powertrain and platform, designed to target different market niches.

To date, the multi-disciplinary team project, co-ordinated by Pininfarina Studi e Ricerche S.p.A, whose skills are well known in the areas of design, engineering and production, have involved the collaboration of:

- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, who have worked on the analysis of strategies associated with the lightweighting of vehicles, manufacturing and assembly processes and the use of alternative propulsion systems.
- The Pennsylvania State University, who have worked on the analysis of market potential and on the evaluation of the opportunity to launch new vehicles given the systemic nature of the problem and the determinative role of regulation.
- Inteli - Intelligence in Innovation, Lisbon, who have worked on the analysis of industrialization processes in Portugal, including a rationale to support future approaches to international business partners.
- Instituto Superior Técnico, who have worked on the analysis of environmental performance of concepts, using life-cycle approaches and simulation techniques.

To the above-mentioned end, this team has built up an integrated knowledge base in areas such as spaceframes and flexible platform development, approaches to systemic urban problems and new vehicle designs, and environmental performance and regulation concerns, all coherently interrelated through the solid skills of Pininfarina.

Added motivation for the work carried out has come from a very supportive Portuguese institutional environment and the favourable nature of the national industrial base towards such evolution.

Given the results already obtained, both the Portuguese State and Pininfarina are confident of the conclusions of the project, due by the end of 2001. Meanwhile, and as result of a wish expressed by the Portuguese Authorities, Pininfarina agree on taking deeper responsibilities in next project's phases.



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Both parties are in agreement that they will work together in an attempt to find the necessary solutions, including partners, both financial and technological, to assure the future development of the project, thereby providing the input necessary to foster a new cycle in the Portuguese automotive industry.