BMW fwd concept, VW Golf and new Dacias are among key debuts in Paris

Key Paris debuts include (from left) the BMW Concept Activity Tourer, the Peugeot Onyx concept and VW Golf.

Cars that will be important players in the marketplace will be among the debuts at the Paris auto show.

These include the Volkswagen Golf, Europe’s best-selling car, and the Renault Clio, the French automaker’s best-selling European model.

The spotlight will also be on BMW as the company unveils a concept car based on its new front-wheel-drive platform, which may eventually underpin up to nine smaller BMW models and the future Mini range.

An important debut for Ford is the mid-sized Mondeo, while General Motors Co.’s Opel and Chevrolet brands launch products in growth segments. Opel debuts the Adam minicar and Chevrolet showcases the Trax crossover, a sister model to the U.S. market Buick Encore.

French automakers will debut bread-and butter models, such as the new Logan and Sandero cars from Renault’s low-cost Dacia range, alongside glamorous show cars such as the Peugeot Onyx supercar concept.

AUDI

Audi will unveil the Crosslane Coupe concept, which hints at the brand’s latest styling direction. The study also previews a small SUV called the Q2 set to launch in 2014 as the smallest member of the Q family of SUV/crossovers. The Q2 would be a potential rival to the Mini Countryman. The brand will also debut the A3 Sportback and a convertible version of the RS 5 Coupe. The five-door A3 Sportback follows the recent market launch of the A3 three-door. The A3 is the first Volkswagen Group car underpinned by the company’s new MQB architecture that will be used on 40 different models by the Audi, VW, Skoda and Seat.

BMW

BMW’s Concept Active Tourer previews a car that is likely to go on sale as a rival to the Mercedes-Benz B class. BMW said the concept shows a vehicle that will be attractive to families who need a functional and versatile vehicle with lots of room and a high seating position. The concept is a plug-in hybrid powered by a 195-hp, 1.5-liter gasoline engine and an electric motor. The fwd platform, known internally as UKD, will underpin up to nine models for the BMW and Mini brands. It is a key part of the automaker’s goal of boosting annual sales to 2 million by 2020 from 1.67 million last year.
CHEVROLET

The Chevrolet Trax will be the brand’s first entry in the growing subcompact SUV/crossover segment. It is a sister model to the Opel Mokka and Buick Encore. The five-seat Trax will be offered in Europe with a choice of 1.4- and 1.6-liter turbocharged gasoline engines or a 1.7-liter turbocharged diesel. All-wheel drive is an option. The Trax launches in Europe early next year. It will be sold in 140 countries but not the United States.

CITROEN

Citroen showcases its upscale DS line with the DS3 Cabrio and will also unveils the C-Elysee and the C4 L sedan, two cars that are part of the brand’s international growth strategy. The DS3 Cabrio is based on the DS3 subcompact launched two years ago. Citroen launched its DS line with the DS3 in 2010, followed a year later by the DS4 and the DS5 last November. The DS line represented 15 percent of the brand’s sales in Europe in the first half, as well as 10 percent of Citroen’s global sales. With the C-Elysee and the C4 L sedans, Citroen aims to boost sales in high-growth international markets such as the Mediterranean basin, China and Russia.

DACIA

Dacia Sandero (top) and Logan

New versions of the Logan sedan and Sandero hatchback debut with a fresh design that parent Renault hopes will widen the appeal of the cars. They will be the first Dacias with the brand’s new styling that aims for leaner and crisper horizontal lines, closer to Scandinavian design. They be offered with engines that are more fuel efficient than those on the current cars, including Renault’s new 900cc gasoline engine and a four-cylinder 1.2-liter turbocharged gasoline engine. Renault will apply the styling to all the models underpinned by its M0 entry-level platform to create a visual brand identity for Dacia and the M0 program. Renault aims to sell more than 1 million cars this year based on the low-cost M0 platform, including models such as the Logan, Sandero, Duster SUV and Lodgy minivan.

FORD

Ford Mondeo

Ford says the new Mondeo, its European flagship, is the most premium version of the midsized car that it has built to date. It will also be more economical to drive than the outgoing model with powertrain choices that include the automaker’s new downsized 1.0-liter gasoline engine, which Ford says is a first in the midsized segment, and a hybrid variant. The Mondeo is a sister model to the Fusion in the United States. In Europe, the Mondeo will have five-door hatchback, wagon and sedan versions and a gasoline-hybrid sedan variant. The Mondeo will go on sale next autumn.

HYUNDAI

Hyundai i30 three-door

With the three-door version of the i30 compact car, Hyundai continues a European product offensive that has
made larger rivals nervous. The automaker aims to attract more younger buyers to the brand with the i30 three-door. The car has a sportier look than the five-door version with longer doors, a sharply-raked beltline and a more angular silhouette. Hyundai expects the three-door to account for 10 percent of 120,000 annual sales of the i30 in Europe.

**JAGUAR**

**Jaguar F-Type**

The F-Type two-seater heralds the brand’s return to its sporting tradition after decades spent focusing on luxury sedans. The F-Type will launch as a convertible next spring and a coupe version is expected to follow around 12 months later. With the rear-wheel-drive F-Type, Jaguar aims to win new customers, especially younger buyers. The car will be the brand’s fourth and smallest model, joining the XJ luxury sedan, the mid-range XF sports sedan and the XK four-seat convertible and coupe.

**KIA**

**Kia Carens**

Kia hopes an attractive design and roomy interior will make the slow-selling Carens a tougher competitor to European minivans such as the Renault Scenic, Ford C-Max and Volkswagen Touran. The new Carens has a lower roofline and longer wheelbase to give the vehicle a sleeker look and more interior room. The Carens will replace both the outgoing model and the larger Carnival/Sedona minivan when it goes on sale across Europe next spring. Kia will also debut the three-door variant of its latest Cee’d compact car. Called the Pro_Ceed, the car has a sportier look than the five-door and wagon variants already on sale.

**LAND ROVER**

**Land Rover Range Rover**

Land Rover says the new Range Rover will match the refinement of luxury sedans. High-end versions are likely to challenge upcoming super luxury SUVs from Maserati and Bentley. The Range Rover arrives in showrooms toward the end of next year.

**LEXUS**

**Lexus LF-CC**

With the LF-CC coupe-cabriolet concept, Lexus hopes to draw attention away from its German premium rivals. The concept further develops the brand’s fresh styling direction called Lexus Finessse that was seen on the LF-LC coupe concept at the Detroit auto show in January. The LF-CC features the brand’s new mesh-patterned grill while the bodywork has sharp, sculpted angles and elegant curves.

**MAZDA**

The Mazda6 station wagon will debut in Paris after the automaker unveiled the sedan version at the Moscow auto show in August. Both models will offer in Europe the automaker’s new 2.2-liter Euro6-compliant diesel engine, as well as a 2.0-liter gasoline unit.

**MERCEDES-BENZ**

The Mercedes CLS Shooting Brake, a station wagon variant of the brand’s coupe-styled, four-door CLS, gets its auto show debut. Mercedes will preview its new S class with a sculpture called Aesthetics S.

**MINI**

**Mini Paceman**

BMW continues to expand the lineup of its UK-based Mini brand with the Paceman. The two-door is a sportier version of the Countryman crossover introduced last year. It will go on sale early next year as Mini’s seventh model. The Paceman has almost identical front styling to the Countryman but overturns a Mini tradition by using horizontal rear lights instead of vertical lights.
NISSAN

Nissan said its Terra concept car shows that the company is ready to mass-produce fuel cell electric vehicles whenever hydrogen becomes widely available. The Terra is a compact SUV powered by a hydrogen fuel cell located under the hood.

OPEL

Opel Adam

Opel/Vauxhall's big unveil is the Adam minicar, which is planned as a rival to cars such as the Fiat 500 and Mini. The Adam will have connectivity features and personalization options aimed at attracting young, Web-savvy buyers. It will be positioned below the Corsa subcompact and will sit alongside the Agila small minivan, but the Adam will have a premium price compared with these models. The Adam will be the first Opel to use new gasoline engines with displacements of 1.0 to 1.4 liters developed by parent General Motors with Chinese partner SAIC. It will arrive in showrooms in early 2013.

PEUGEOT

Peugeot 2008

Peugeot will unveil the Onyx hybrid supercar concept, as well as the 2008 Concept and the production 301 sedan. The Onyx has a carbon fiber body shell and is powered by a 600-hp, 3.7-liter V8 engine. The 2008 Concept previews the brand's upcoming subcompact SUV/crossover. The production model will go on sale early next year and will compete with vehicles such as the Opel Mokka and Nissan Juke in a fast-growing market niche. The 301 four-door compact sedan, a sister model the Citroen C-Elysee, is targeted at buyers in global growth markets.

POORSCHE

A station wagon variant of the Panamera sedan will be on display in Paris as a concept. Porsche will also unveil the fifth generation of the all-wheel-drive 911 Carrera 4.

RENAULT

Renault Clio

Renault will debut three variants of its new Clio: a hatchback, a sporty RS version and a wagon. The Clio is Renault’s No. 1 seller in Europe and it has been give a fresh design and fuel-efficient engines. The Clio will be the first Renault model to get a new 90-hp, three-cylinder, 900cc turbocharged gasoline engine that delivers the performance of a normally aspirated 1.4-liter powerplant, according to the automaker. Coupled with a stop-start system, it has fuel economy of 4.3 liters per 100km and CO2 emissions of 99 grams per kilometer. The Clio’s most frugal engine will be a 90-hp 1.5-liter diesel with fuel economy of 3.2 l/100km and CO2 emissions of 83g/km. The Clio will be offered only as a five-door model but it Renault design head Laurens van den Acker has given it the sporty look of a three-door car.

SEAT/ SKODA

Seat Leon

Skoda and Seat debut sister models aimed at budget-conscious buyers: the Skoda Rapid and the Seat Toledo. The cars will be built at Skoda’s factory in Mlada Boleslav, near Prague. The Toledo revives a model that Seat stopped making in 2009 because of slow sales. Both cars have sedan body styles with large trunks and wide-opening rear hatches for easy loading. The Toledo will be launched initially in Spain and Portugal in mid-November. Sales will follow soon after in other European markets. Skoda’s Rapid will go on sale in Europe in October. The car will slot between the Fabia subcompact and the larger Octavia. A crucial Paris debut for Seat is the latest Leon. Like the new Volkswagen Golf, the Leon is underpinned by VW
Group’s new MQB architecture. The Leon is slightly shorter than the Toledo but will cost about 2,000 euros more because it is more upscale.

**SMART**

Smart’s ForStars two-seat, electric-powered concept previews the styling of the brand’s new ForTwo and ForFour models. The ForStars also hints at what Smart describes as a new crossover coupe model that may be produced.

**SUZUKI**

The S-Cross compact crossover concept offers a preview of the replacement for the SX4, Suzuki’s second best-seller in Europe after the Swift hatchback.

**TOYOTA**

Toyota will unveil hatchback and station wagon variants of the automaker’s latest Auris compact car. Both variants will be offered with gasoline-electric hybrid powertrains, alongside gasoline and diesel versions. Toyota expects a third of Auris sales to be hybrid versions, another third to be gasoline variants and a third to be diesels. The Auris will arrive in showrooms early next year with the wagon launching in the second half. Toyota stopped selling a compact wagon when the Corolla was replaced in Europe by the Auris in 2006. The company said that wagons now make up 25 percent of compact car sales in Europe. Toyota will also show in Paris a revamped version of its Verso minivan, which seats up seven and competes with vehicles such as the Ford C-Max.

**VOLKSWAGEN**

Volkswagen has given the Golf an extensive upgrade to help the model remain Europe’s top-selling car. The latest Golf has a sleeker design and is more fuel efficient, roomier and better equipped than the current car. New safety and assistance systems include a multi-collision braking system that automatically brakes the car to a stop when it is involved in a crash to help avoid a second impact with oncoming traffic. Also offered is proactive accident protection (Pre-Safe), adaptive cruise control that includes an emergency braking function designed to operate at city speeds to avoid low-speed impacts, lane-keeping assistant, driver-fatigue detection, traffic-sign recognition, the latest generation of automatic parking systems and automated light functions. VW CEO Martin Winterkorn says the seventh-generation model is “the best and the greenest Golf ever.” The new Golf will go on sale in Europe in November and will arrive in showrooms in the United States in 2014.

**VOLVO**

Volvo will debut the V40 Cross Country, a crossover version of the V40 compact hatchback. The V40 Cross Country has 40mm higher ground clearance than the V40 and offers all-wheel-drive. The automaker said it expects to sell 17,000 units a year of the V40 Cross Country. Half of those sales will be in Europe and 30 percent in China, Volvo said. The car starts production in Ghent, Belgium, in November. The model will not be sold in the United States.

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