

VW, Silent Yachts announce cooperative agreement

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New yacht to be designed by Seat's Cupra performance division



Volkswagen has hired Seat's Cupra performance division to design the new yacht

Volkswagen Tuesday announced a cooperative agreement with the Austrian builder of solar-electric catamarans, Silent Yachts, which could be the German automaker's entry into the boat business.

VW won't be dropping its Electronic Vehicle (EV) platform, called MEB into Silent Yacht vessels, but instead hired Seat's Cupra performance division to design a new yacht for the company.

The automaker said it plans to put a boat based on this concept in the water next year, then take four years to develop a production model, according to cnet.com. Production plans call for 50 units

per year at launch. Demand will ultimately determine the build schedule. While development occurs, additional VW EV parts will make their way to the Silent Yacht product line.

VW believes synergies between the two companies already exist. For example, batteries used with its EV platform come from renewable energy, which further benefits Silent Yachts' carbon footprint.

VW also said the MEB platform can provide a number of benefits to future solar-electric boats offering fewer vibrations, greater efficiency and more power for those who want to take to the seas.

In a grander scheme, VW says it believes expanding into the industry will help it provide a greater impact on reducing emissions.