

EARNHARDT UNPLUGGED: Junior & His \$20,000 UTV



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UTV

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KYMCO Unveils UTV

New UXV 500 Side-By-Side Might Be Available By Spring

KYMCO has joined the growing U.S. side-by-side market with the introduction of its UXV 500, which was unveiled at the EICMA show in Milan, Italy, in November, and according to KYMCO officials will be available to U.S. dealers in late spring.

The company says that in comparison to the automotive market, the UXV 500's design concept integrates the "go anywhere" versatility of an SUV along with the practicality of a modern pick-up truck.

"With this vehicle you're really getting the best of both worlds," said Rick Pawelka, KYMCO's marketing communications manager.

The vehicle is powered by a four-stroke, 500cc engine and features mechanical traction with full independent suspension. It's also equipped with a lockable front differential and has a large, rear, adjustable cargo area the company says is suitable for either recreational or heavy-duty use.

Pawelka says the company might make some minor changes to the vehicles before they hit showrooms in the U.S. because of government regulations, but the vehicle is still scheduled to be available on time.



"We are in the final stages of testing this exciting product and anticipate a late spring 2008 release to our dealers and to consumers," Pawelka said.

Pawelka also says pricing for the UXV 500 has not yet been finalized, but that all specifications and

pricing details for the vehicle are scheduled to be released to the public in the coming months.

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"We're very excited about the launch of this truly innovative product," he said. "Dealers and customers will see the same quality in the UXV that we put into all our vehicles."

Can-Am Will Enter UTV Market

No Specific Date Set For Machine Availability

During an interview with our sister publication,

can-am



Powersports Business, BRP CEO Jose Boisjoli revealed Can-Am will soon enter the side-by-side market. While a specific date for product availability wasn't announced, we expect a UTV to be unveiled as a late 2009 model.

"Innovation is the name of the game in our industry," Boisjoli said to *Powersports Business*. "Five years down the road, our product will come with advanced technology at a faster pace."

Boisjoli said BRP focused its R&D resources on the new Spyder three-wheeled motorcycle first, before turning to the side-by-side market.

"It's not a question of money. It's a question of resources," Boisjoli said on why BRP decided to focus R&D on the Spyder and not on a UTV. "We have to decide where to invest the resources, and we decided to invest in the Can-Am roadster before the side-by-side business. But it will come."

"One day we'll have a side-by-side. That's clear."

We expect the side-by-side to more closely resemble the Polaris RZR than a Rhino, and come with the powerful 800cc liquid-cooled V-twin four-stroke. We'll keep you posted on any new developments.

Club Car Unleashes XRT850

New UTV Comes With Versatile Fold-Down Seat

Club Car recently introduced a new tough, versatile and compact side-by-side utility vehicle to its XRT series lineup. Available with either a 11.5 HP gasoline or 10



HP electric powertrain, Club Car says the new XRT850 is designed for families and outdoor enthusiasts.

Available in a variety of color combinations and with standard 22-inch all-terrain tires, the XRT850 provides styling and performance in a compact package. Standard features include a deluxe brush guard, a rugged differential guard and automotive-style headlights.

Compact enough to fit in the back of a pickup truck, the XRT850 offers a fold-down seat that gives owners the versatility of carrying light cargo or two additional passengers in comfort. Customers may also choose a cargo bed box instead of a fold-down seat.

With a rustproof, non-corrosive 6061 aircraft quality aluminum frame, the XRT850 is built to last – and backed by a two-year or 2000-hour warranty. MSRP on the XRT850 gas engine with optional fold-down seat is \$6199 and \$6250 for the electric drive system.