Foto: Cortesía Presidencia

IPN Contributes to the Development of the First Mexican Electric Car

Arturo Reyes Sandoval, General Director of the Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN), expressed his gratitude to President Claudia Sheinbaum for recognizing the strengths of the IPN in advancing clean, efficient, and accessible mobility.

Adda Avendaño

The first Mexican electric car is becoming a reality thanks to a government initiative announced by President Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo during a morning press conference at the National Palace. The development plan for the Olinia minicars aims to enhance clean, efficient, and accessible mobility nationwide.

The project seeks to provide a mobility alternative to motorcycles and compact cars. This alternative will be safe, rechargeable at any outlet, and predominantly composed of Mexican-made components. The goal is to progre--ssively establish a production chain.

A specialized team from the IPN and the National Technological Institute of Mexico (TecNM), coordinated by the recently created Secretariat of Science, Humanities, Technology, and Innovation (Secihti), has been tasked with developing prototypes for these national electric cars.

The general director of the IPN, Arturo Re yes Sandoval, informed that a group of teachers, expert researchers, and technical coordinators were integrated with the Institute to articulate the work between the areas of design and development of the vehicle through 10 strategic lines, corresp-

-onding to the systems and other activities.

Additionally, the IPN will lay the groundwork for a conducive ecosystem for the project by conducting market analysis, drafting business plans, and preparing a preliminary blueprint for one or more light electric vehicle plants through its Technological Foresight and Intelligence Directorate (Tecnópoli), part of the IPN's Secretariat of Innovation and Social Integration.

Reyes Sandoval highlighted the National Laboratory for Smart Electromobility (Lancei) as a critical resource. This laboratory integrates five IPN units and the Mexican Institute of Transportation and is a pioneer in cutting-edge transportation decarbonization technologies. Its state-of-the-art facilities include high-power density electronics, passive safety systems emphasizing electromobility, and a test track for stability and automation.

Moreover, the recently inaugurated Centro de Innovación e Integración de Tecnologías Avanzadas (CIITA) in Puebla is poised to support the automotive sector through its five cutting-edge laboratories specializing in electromobility.

Foto: Cortesía SEP

Rosaura Ruiz Gutiérrez, leader of Secihti, described the Olinia project as a historical turning point for Mexico's automotive industry. The initiative showcases collaboration between academia, government, and industry to promote technological sovereignty and national well-being.

Ruiz Gutiérrez emphasized that the project's name, Olinia (meaning "movement" in Nahuatl), reflects its goal of transferring technology from academia and research into successful public-private partnerships. This model of shared prosperity envisions allocating a portion of revenues to education and science.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT

The person in charge of the Olinia project, Roberto Capuano Tripp, pointed out that it will be the first Mexican assembler of mini vehicles developed by Mexican engineering, and the pio nero model is expected to be presented at the opening match of the World Cup in 2026, at the Azteca Stadium.

The Olinia vehicles will offer a safe, efficient, sustainable, and affordable urban mobility solution. They will be rechargeable at conventional outlets, produce zero greenhouse gas emissions, and have lower operating costs than gasoline vehicles.

Olinia's three initial models—focused on personal mobility, neighborhood travel, and last-mile deliveries are designed to address urban mobility challenges, including the increasing demand for e-commerce.

The vehicles are expected to cost between 90,000 and 150,000 pesos, with plans to launch all three models by the end of the current administration. The project combines public and private investment to ensure financial viability and fair financing options.

“This bold and ambitious plan brings together Mexico's top technological institutions—IPN and TecNM—under the umbrella of the recently established Secretariat of Science, Humanities, Technology, and Innovation," Capuano Tripp declared.

Foto: Cortesía Presidencia