

AUTOMOTIVE

Tesla continues accessible push with \$39K SUV

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Tesla's Model Y. Image courtesy of Tesla

By STAFF REPORTS

U.S. automaker Tesla is expanding its portfolio of electric vehicles with a seven-seat sport utility vehicle.

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Tesla's Model Y is designed to offer an SUV's functionality in a lower profile, giving enhanced safety and the feeling of riding in a sports car. During a presentation unveiling the car, Tesla's CEO Elon Musk stated he expects the Model Y to be popular, anticipating selling a greater volume of the vehicles than the Model 3 and Model X combined.

SUV meets sports car

As with the Model 3, the Model Y has a panoramic glass roof.



[View this post on Instagram](#)

Panoramic glass roof on Model Y

A post shared by Tesla (@teslamotors) on Mar 14, 2019 at 10:42pm PDT

Instagram post from Tesla

The standard model can run 230 miles on one charge, while a long range upgrade will allow for a range of 300 miles.

The Model Y accelerates from 0 to 60mph in 3.5 seconds, and can reach top speeds of 150mph.

Tesla designed the Model Y to have a low center of gravity, and the automaker claims it will be the safest mid-size SUV.

"At Tesla, we always design with safety as the number one goal," Mr. Musk said.

Upgraded Model Y units will roll out to buyers in fall 2020, while the lower-priced standard model will be available starting in 2021 for \$39,000.

Tesla has an existing crossover with its Model X, which offers six seats. Comparatively, the Model X has a starting price of about \$78,000.

Sales of sport utility vehicles dominated the luxury car market in 2018, but the gap between high-end and mass-market SUVs is narrowing.

More than 1 million luxury vehicles sold last year, 62 percent of which were SUVs, according to a report from Edmunds. Growing availability of high-end SUVs has driven this trend, but the price gap between luxury and mainstream vehicles has also shrunk 10 percent in the last decade ([see story](#)).

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