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Rivian R1T

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Many have heard of Elon Musk's Cybertruck, which is scheduled for release in 2023. An alternative would be the Rivian R1T, which you can buy right now. Tesla has the widest advertising, and Rivian is not as popular as we would like.

Founded in 2009 by CEO R.J. Scaringe, Rivian's consumer offerings made a huge splash when they were revealed in 2018, thanks to their sleek styling and assortment of premium features (like an optional camp stove integrated into a compartment between the rear wheels and the rear passenger seats) not found on traditional trucks or SUVs.

Rivian's investors include some heavy hitters. Amazon is estimated to own anywhere from a fifth to a quarter of the company, with plans to order 100,000 Rivian electric delivery trucks to bolster its own fleet and reduce its carbon footprint. T. Rowe Price, another major player and early investor, led a \$2.5 billion investment round in the company in 2020 [1].

Ironically, one of the potential big winners of Rivian's successful IPO is the 118-year-old automaker Ford, which has a similarly major stake in the company, and plans to work closely with Rivian in the future on EV projects.

At 215.6 inches long, the R1T splits the difference in size between mid-size pickups like the Ford Ranger and full-size trucks like the Ram 1500. The R1T is the first electric truck to make it to production in what's shaping up to be a competitive market, soon to include the Ford F-150 Lightning and the GMC Hummer EV SUT. The R1T will be sold directly to

consumers, although Rivian says that it also will set up a network of service centers and Tesla-like stores.

The R1T pickup truck is built on Rivian's "skateboard platform," which grants the company increased flexibility when it comes to creating different types of vehicles, like its electric delivery trucks. The platform, a chassis upon which a car can be built, houses the car's essential components like electric motors, battery packs, and suspension systems, all neatly packaged below the vehicle body, giving it a lower center of gravity than traditional combustion engine cars [2].

Glance at Rivian R1T from the side and you'll spot the usual pickup truck silhouette. However, this is the only conventional-looking aspect of this super futuristic truck.

A full-width light bar dominates the otherwise front end, along with small oval headlights. The flush door handles keep the sides looking clean and there's a similar style light bar at the rear as well.

The interior of Rivian R1T is more like a luxury car than a pickup truck. The materials feel and look great, the headlining is even made of recycled materials without compromising in quantity. The cabin is packed with clever features which are Bluetooth speaker hiding under the driver's seat and a torch in the driver's door. The design is fairly minimalist, although not to the same extreme as something like a Tesla Model X or cybertruck. You get a separate driver's display and the infotainment system is responsive and easy to use [3].

The total capacity of the back boot is 1,925 liters where underneath the floor there's a full spare wheel with the capacity of 200 liters. The payload that you can carry in there is 800 kilos.

The front boot has 330 liters of space. The bonnet is electrically operated.

The 135kWh battery pack means the R1T has 314 miles of range. It's quick as well, with 800hp and 900Nm of torque pushing it from 0-60mph in 3.8 seconds. The truck has four-wheel-drive, courtesy of a motor on each wheel, which makes great performance off-road. The truck can send the exact amount of power necessary to each wheel to maximize traction and get you out of sticky situations.

Rivian R1T specs include four electric motors; battery having 135Kwh; range of 314 miles; power of 800hp; torque of 900Nm; acceleration 0-60mph at 3.8 seconds; starting price from \$67,500 [4].

References:

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