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[BMW shows M5 'Concept'](#)



March 2, 2004: Following 20 years production and three generations of the 'businessman's express', BMW has shed a little light on the next generation M5 with the unveiling of the BMW Concept M5 at the Geneva Motorshow.

Translating Formula 1 technology directly into a road car, the BMW Concept M5 is powered by a V10 engine - a BMW first. Delivering around 500bhp and 500Nm of torque, the Concept M5 is capable of completing the zero to 62mph sprint in well under five seconds.



Such impressive levels of performance are made possible by specially modified Bi-VANOS camshaft timing, individual throttle butterflies and engine electronics derived from the BMW Williams F1 car. These are linked to an enhanced DSC traction control system, a variable limited slip differential and adapted brakes to ensure that the Concept M5 offers an exhilarating, yet safe, driving experience.

Alongside the engine developments, Formula 1 technology is carried over to the gearbox. The Concept M5 is equipped with a seven-speed Sequential Manual Gearbox - another first for BMW.

Under the skin, the BMW Concept M5 is based on the 5 Series saloon launched in 2003, both cars benefiting from an aluminium chassis and lightweight aluminium front body panels. Visually, the BMW Concept M5 stands apart from its 'standard' 5 Series brethren by the addition of modified front and rear air dams, side sills, side air vents and four exhaust tailpipes. Additionally, it has M alloy wheels of an exclusive design measuring 8.5J x 19 on the front and 9.5J x 19 on the rear, with 255 / 40 ZR 19 and 285 / 35 ZR 19 tyres respectively.



While the BMW Concept M5 is strictly a concept car, a production version of the car could be available within a year.

Text/Photos: BMW

Gallery

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