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Suzuki Unveils its Latest DNA Advancement

The Trendy, Rally-Inspired Concept-S

A blend of Suzuki motorcycle, race car and video game, new concept vehicle could shape the future of compact cars



First there was the Suzuki Hayabusa, the fastest mass-produced street bike ever created. From that privileged genetic code sprang forth the Formula Hayabusa and GSX-R/4, two radical racing machines combining advanced motorcycle and automotive engineering with pure, unadulterated performance.

And from those same elements came other enlightened Suzuki vehicles, including the world's first four-wheel ATV, the flagship XL7 SUV and the praiseworthy new Aerio and Aerio SX.

Now, Suzuki unveils the future of its legendary DNA – and its next motorcycle/car collaboration – with today's introduction of the **Suzuki Concept-S**, a racy red, rally-inspired concept vehicle that fuses Suzuki's racing heredity with cutting-edge features and the excitement of a video game. In so doing, Suzuki makes another innovative mark on the industry's radar screen.

Designed to demonstrate what's possible when Suzuki's motorcycle/automotive engineering meets rally-inspired styling and video game-like features, the Concept-S comes to Canada after receiving high marks in Europe – and is a direct descendant of the technology and racing acumen acquired by Suzuki through its participation in the Junior World Rally Championship, Pikes Peak International Hill Climb and other events.

More than just a show vehicle, however, the Concept-S offers a glimpse of the power, design and accessory possibilities when world-class automotive engineers are allowed free reign to create.

In the power category, the vehicle boasts the same 1.6-liter, aluminum, DOHC, 16-valve, inline four-cylinder engine found in Suzuki's Ignis Super 1600 rally car – packing a punch that is significantly magnified by all-wheel-drive, a sequential, six-speed gearbox and a rally-inspired drivetrain. The result is a compact yet undeniably sporty drive similar to the Ignis Super 1600 and European rally vehicles.

Continuing the rally-inspired demeanor is the Concept-S's strong, futuristic exterior implying road-holding ability and modernity all at once. The root of this "stylishly chunky" design – the placement of its 18-inch, aluminum alloy wheels at the extreme four corners of its body – gives the Suzuki Concept-S a surprisingly larger profile than its 144-inch length, 68-inch width would lead drivers to believe.

Adding to the vehicle's powerful presence is its wraparound window, featuring concealed pillars, also replicated in the interior, and strikingly vertical multi-reflector halogen headlamps, not unlike those featured on the Suzuki Aerio and Aerio SX production models.

The Concept-S's wraparound design continues in an interior offering a James Bond-worthy list of features. Dominating the interior landscape is a dash inspired by the wings of a plane, complete with aluminum panels similar to those found on Suzuki's fastest motorcycles.

But since an excess of gadgets can distract even the most experienced drivers, Suzuki designers have clustered many of the Concept-S's most important controls on the steering wheel to allow drivers to keep their hands on the wheel and eyes on the road. In a case of reality mirroring art (or at least the latest video game), Concept-S drivers can control the transmission, hand brake, turn signals and windshield wipers with the push of a steering wheel-imbedded button – similar in function to a video game joystick. In addition, a cellular phone-sized screen in the center of the dash controls the Concept-S's air conditioning and stereo systems.

2003 Concept-S Technical Specifics

General

Vehicle Type	Concept Vehicle
Powertrain Layout	Front Engine, Full-time Four-wheel Drive
Body Structure	Unibody
Body Material	Steel
Seating Capacity	Four

Wheels

Wheel Type	Six-spoke Aluminum Alloy
Wheel Size	18 in.

Engine

Type	1.6-Liter DOHC, 4-Cylinder, 16-Valve
Block Material	Aluminum
Displacement (cc)	1,597

Drivetrain

Transmission Type	Sequential Six-speed, MTA gearbox
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Exterior Dimensions

Wheelbase (in.)	94.1 in.
Overall Width (in.)	68.1 in.
Overall Length (in.)	143.7 in.
Overall Height (in.)	57.1 in.

Unique Features

Advanced Navigation System (ANS)
Steering wheel-integrated controls for transmission, parking brake, turn signals and windshield wipers
Touch screen air conditioning and stereo controls
Intelligent key card with fingerprint authorization
MP3 audio system

The Concept-S's most advanced feature may be its **Advanced Navigation System**, patterned after the system created for Suzuki's GSX-R/4 roadster concept car. In addition to following road routes from e-mail or the Internet, drivers can download, store and exchange MP3 music files and share this information electronically with other vehicles.

And, in another nod to fabled spy vehicles, the Suzuki Advanced Navigation System uses an intelligent key card to lock, unlock and start the car – and has a fingerprint identification system that automatically adjusts the suspension to preset levels tailored to different drivers.

While the Concept-S offers a number of interior and exterior advancements that may find their way onto future Suzuki vehicles, there are currently no plans to introduce the car as a production vehicle in Canada.



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