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## **Kia Unveils Compact SUV Concept**

Kia has unveiled a concept of a brand new SUV aimed at the Chinese market... but it could also provide a hint about a B-segment SUV that may sell in other parts of the world, including New Zealand.

The KX3 made its international debut at the recent Guangzhou Motor Show, one of China's largest auto gatherings, displaying a new interpretation of the brand's unique Tiger Nose grille.

While it is the product of the joint venture operation in China, Dongfeng Yueda Kia (DYK), the KX3 concept is clearly a member of the worldwide Kia family, designed to fit within the company's dynamic and stylish range.

Kia Motors has already informed key automotive media that it is working on a compact SUV for the B-segment that will be released into worldwide markets within the next 18 months, and is likely to be hybrid-only.

As the popularity of SUVs continues to grow globally, the high ground-clearance of the KX3 concept and chrome-look body cladding around the lower side of the vehicle suggest good four-wheel drive capabilities and adventurous performance.

The result, according to Kia, is a "stylish, athletic-looking compact SUV, promising both a high degree of practicality and a great drive".

The KX3 concept is powered by Kia's high-tech 1.6-liter turbo direct injection (T-GDI) petrol engine, paired with an advanced seven-speed dual-clutch transmission (DCT) and offers motorists fun-to-drive handling characteristics. The four-wheel drive powertrain, backed up by the T-GDI engine's strong performance and impressive fuel economy, will allow drivers to enjoy greater traction and stability in all weathers and road conditions.

Inside, the cabin features high quality materials and refinement, along with entertainment and connectivity technology that will appeal to young, tech-savvy drivers.

Kia has yet to confirm whether the KX3 concept will be put into production for the Chinese market through its DYK joint venture partnership.

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Photo caption:                   The Kia KX3 concept SUV vehicle is designed for the Chinese market but also hints at a vehicle with worldwide ambitions.

Further Enquiries: Todd McDonald, General Manager, Kia Motors NZ, phone 0-9-573 6070.

*(Prepared on behalf of Kia Motors New Zealand Ltd by John Ellegard, Stanford James Public Relations and Marketing Communication. Ph 09-815 0589, email [john.ellegard@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john.ellegard@xtra.co.nz))*