

## Toyota's Auris goes green - by Liana Reiners

(01/12/2011)

Who says hybrid technology has to be boring? A case in point is the new Auris HSD, which marks Toyota's first introduction of its Hybrid Synergy Drive (HSD) to one of its mainstream models. However, the benefits go far beyond mere low fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, with comfort and driving enjoyment being part of the overall package.

The hybrid system's 1,8-litre VVT-i petrol engine, in combination with the electric motor, enables the Auris HSD to accelerate to 100 km/h in 11,4 seconds and on to a claimed top speed of 180 km/h. But, the real performance eye-opener is the amount of torque on tap – 142 Nm at 4 000 r/min from the petrol motor and a torque peak of 207 Nm from the electric motor, which is on stream from zero revs.

The lightweight, compact four-cylinder Atkinson cycle petrol engine has a maximum output of 73 kW at 5 200 r/min. On the other hand, the high-performance, permanent magnet, synchronous electric motor/generator produces a maximum of 60 kW. Powered by the hybrid battery, it works in tandem with the petrol engine to boost acceleration and when the vehicle is switched to Electric Vehicle (EV) mode, operates alone to power the driven wheels.



Toyota's Hybrid Synergy Drive operates in different modes to maximise overall vehicle efficiency. When the car comes to rest, the engine stops automatically to conserve fuel. In low-efficiency conditions, such as at start-up and low- to mid-range engine speeds, the vehicle automatically runs in EV mode, using just its electric motor and thus completely eliminating CO<sub>2</sub> exhaust emissions. Under normal driving conditions, the source and allocation of power is constantly adjusted between the engine and electric motor to achieve the best performance with maximum fuel efficiency.

The Auris HSD is offered in two specification grades – XS and XR. Key features of the XS HSD include climate control air-conditioning, front and rear electric windows and mirrors, front and rear fog lights, seven airbags, vehicle stability control (VSC) and 15-inch alloy wheels.

In addition, the XR features leather upholstery, cruise control, smart entry and start, an electrochromatic rear view mirror with reverse camera and 17-inch alloy wheels, amongst other things.

The new Auris HSD comes with a five-year/90 000 km service plan, along with Toyota's comprehensive three-year/100 000 km warranty. It is also supported by the ToyotaCare Roadside Assistance Programme, which entitles customers to 24-hour roadside assistance.

Pricing for the Auris HSD:

Auris XS HSD – R267 200

Auris XR HSD – R289 800

