



Tractor maker Escorts readies four-wheeled multi utility vehicle Rider

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- Escorts has also developed hybrid tractor and hybrid backhoe loader concepts

Topics

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With plans to foray into an all-new product category, Escorts Ltd has developed a four-wheeled multi utility rural transport vehicle (RTV). With a payload of about 750 kg, the RTV, named Rider, is aimed at the daily transportation and mobility requirements of the farmers and others in rural pockets.

Talking to *Mint* earlier on Friday, Nikhil Nanda, chairman and managing director said, "The RTV will offer several rural and construction specific applications. We plan to launch it within 12 months with a two-wheel drive variant. You will also see a four-wheel drive and an electric variant of the same in the future."

Nanda said he was mulling over developing a multi utility vehicle for rural specific applications for the last three years. Rider was developed ground-up in 12 months, he said.

Although Nanda did not comment on the potential pricing of the RTV, sources in the know suggest that it may have a price tag in the range of ₹3-3.5 lakh once it gets launched next year.

Nanda, however, clarified that the RTV will adhere to the off-highway vehicle regulations as it does not fall in the passenger vehicle category. "We have no interest in the conventional four-wheeler passenger vehicle space," he said.

Escorts has also developed [hybrid tractor](#) and hybrid backhoe loader concepts.

The hybrid tractor, India's first, is developed in partnership with the Austria-based powertrain engineering company AVL. It is powered by a diesel engine as well as lithium-ion batteries.

Nanda told Mint that the hybrid tractor is aimed at the 75-90 hp segment. "The hybrid tractor can be driven on its electric powertrain for upto an hour. Meanwhile, the batteries can be charged when it operates on the diesel engine. Batteries can be charged within 1.5 hours," Nanda said.

Escorts has also developed an all electric tractor for applications in the vineyards. "We plan to launch it in Hannover (Germany) in November later this year," he said.

Escorts' other innovations in the farm equipment domain includes a self propelled sprayer and an affordable sugarcane harvester.



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