Abstract

There has been a long held belief that electric cars are not practical or marketable. Utilizing the range benefits of a gasoline engine in concert with the zero-emission characteristics of an electric motor/battery combination has the potential to change that belief. Spurred on by the rising air pollution levels in cities like Los Angeles, the automotive industry has responded by accelerating research and development of these hybrid electric automobiles. As part of that effort, the University of Alberta (U of A), along with 29 other schools and universities from across North America, spent eighteen month building a working hybrid electric vehicle. The U of A car was the Overall Winner of the 1993 FORD/SAE HEV Challenge and demonstrated that the hybrid concept is practical and attractive to the car buying public.