

While the automobile industry waged an all-out war against CARB's mandate, GM announced in 1990 that it would build an electric car. Although GM justified ending the program due to high production costs and lack of economic viability, there is some speculation that GM caved in to pressure from the automobile and oil industries and that the electric car was doomed from the get-go. In December 1996, the lightweight, aerodynamic, snappy EV1 was introduced for lease only in test markets in California and Arizona. Powered by nickel-metal hydride batteries, EV1s had a driving range of 100 to 120 miles.