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Tesla Opposes Redirection of ATVM Funds

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By Marisa Wong



The Tesla Roadster

The Competition update: You won't see Tesla Motors among the U.S. automakers currently groveling before Congress for a bailout. The Silicon Valley company, whose cars do not use gas at all, did, however, apply in mid-November for a grant from the Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Incentive Program, known as ATVM. This is a \$25 billion fund earmarked for makers of ultra-fuel-efficient cars that push technology beyond the internal combustion engine.

Congress established the program in December 2007, when it passed the Energy Independence and Security Act. It became a reality in September 2008—a month before sales of U.S. cars dove to near-record levels. When Detroit automakers began jostling for stop-gap cash, the ATVM funds caught their eye, and U.S. carmakers urged Congress to redirect the funds to prop them up.

Tesla—that rarity, a solvent American car company—opposes the redirection, which its Vice President for Business Development, Diarmuid O'Connell, calls an attempt to "pervert the intended purpose of the ATVM program." Now it's up to Congress to decide. —M.G. Lord

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Airbus to drop lithium-ion batteries for A350 due to regulatory concerns

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By Associated Press, Updated: Thursday, February 14, 6:44 PM

NEW YORK — Airbus is dropping lithium-ion batteries from its new A350 airplane because of uncertainty surrounding the technology that has led to the grounding of Boeing's 787.

The European planemaker said late Thursday that it has decided to revert to nickel-cadmium batteries for the A350. The plane is a wide-body jet rival to the 787 and is expected to make its first flight around the middle of the year.

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Airbus says it does not expect the battery switch to delay the A350.

Federal officials grounded the 787 last month because of problems with its lithium-ion batteries that caused one fire and forced another plane to make an emergency landing.

Airbus says the A350 uses batteries in a different setup to the 787, making it unlikely that it would face the same problems.







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The biggest risk factor when putting out an electrical vehicle fire is that the lithium ion batteries in the machine will generally keep the fire going stronger than regular fires, and they can also blow up, throwing shrapnel.

The biggest risk factor when putting out an electrical vehicle fire is that the lithium ion batteries in the machine will generally keep the fire going stronger than regular fires, and they can also blow up, throwing shrapnel.



Tesla shares fall after Barron's article

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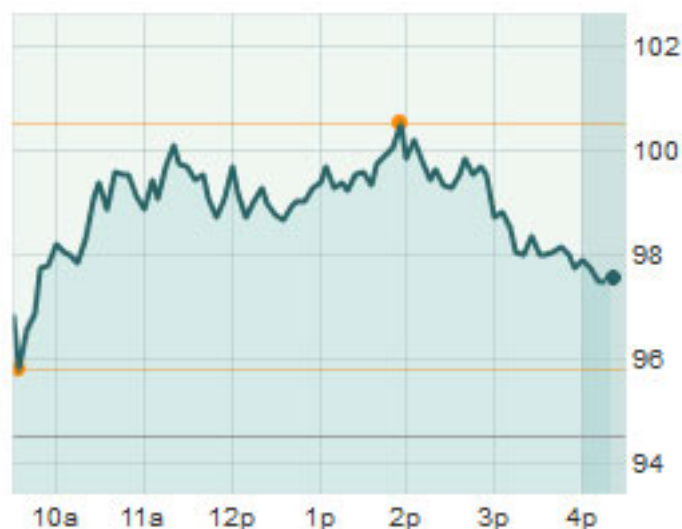
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Portfolio Relevance
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By **Laura Mandaro**

SAN FRANCISCO (MarketWatch) — Tesla Motors Inc. **TSLA +3.45%** shares fell 3.2% premarket Monday, to \$98.54, after Barron's featured the company in a cover story. The article noted that one big driver behind the stock's tripling in value this year was a powerful short squeeze. "With the shorts in retreat, Tesla should trade more in line with its fundamentals," notes the article. The author argues there will have to be a break-through in battery technology for sales to take off. ■

TSLA



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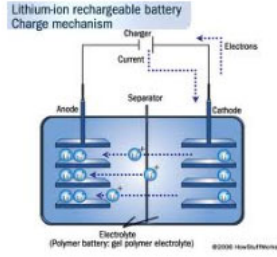


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