



Press release

8th September 2021

Munich, Germany

NIO ET7: First production car to adopt karuun®, a sustainable rattan material for its interior

- NIO's all-electric sedan will be the first production car to feature new, natural technical material that is an eco-friendly alternative to plastics
- After debuting the technology on NIO EVE concept car, ET7 will use karuun® throughout the interior, bringing beauty and natural warmth
- Sustainability extends through entire sourcing process

NIO, a pioneer and manufacturer of smart premium electric vehicles, will be the first manufacturer to use karuun®, a new sustainable alternative to plastics, in its flagship sedan, the ET7. As vehicle manufacturers look beyond their powertrains to become more sustainable, NIO is embracing the use of renewable materials to offer a lighter, premium yet more environmentally-conscious solution.

Developed in Kisslegg, Germany by out for space, karuun® is a new material made from sustainable rattan. Available as either a structural block, veneer or 3D form, it is a lighter (on average 400 kg/m³) alternative to plastic with a significantly lower CO₂ footprint than PC, ABS or even hardwood alternatives found in premium and luxury automotive interiors.

Rattan is a renewable resource that grows like a vine, and is harvested by hand by local farmers – the most environmentally friendly way. Since originally being spotted in an Indonesian craft market, the creators of karuun®, out of space, have significantly refined the material and production process to enable it to withstand the rigours of automotive use. Supported by NIO, which has worked closely with the German start-up, out of space has ensured that the environment was considered at every stage from planting right through to the education of the farmers. The result is a patented, beautiful, hardwearing but sustainable medium, ideally suited to premium vehicles and an ideology that sets the template for future sourcing.

NIO first experimented in 2017 with karuun® in its EVE concept car. Sophisticated in appearance, it complemented the vision of a second living space. In ET7, each piece possesses a unique grain. Prominent elements include the middle layer of the dash and front doors. It also features in the rear of the cabin, providing a continuous and cohesive feel throughout.



“Interesting to both look at and touch, karuun® is a progressive and beautiful material from a fast growing and sustainable source,” says Kris Tomasson, Vice President of NIO Design. “As an all-electric brand, NIO is conscious of the importance of sustainability and preservation. We are committed to migrating more of our materials and technologies to sustainable alternatives whilst preserving the premium feel our users appreciate.”

Underlining the versatility and appeal of karuun®, NIO is also using the material in the first European NIO House in Oslo, Norway where together with manufacturer out of space, the designers have crafted stands, stools and shelves from the sustainable material.

About NIO Inc.

NIO Inc. is a pioneer and a leading manufacturer of premium smart electric vehicles in China. Founded in November 2014, NIO's mission is to shape a joyful lifestyle. NIO aims to build a community starting with smart electric vehicles to share joy and grow together with users. NIO designs, develops, jointly manufactures and sells smart premium electric vehicles, driving innovations in next-generation technologies in autonomous driving, digital technologies, electric powertrains and batteries. NIO differentiates itself through its continuous technological breakthroughs and innovations, such as its industry-leading battery swapping technologies, Battery as a Service, or BaaS, as well as its proprietary autonomous driving technologies and Autonomous Driving as a Service, or ADaaS. NIO launched the ES8, a seven-seater flagship premium smart electric SUV in December 2017, and began deliveries of the ES8 in June 2018 and its variant, the six-seater ES8, in March 2019. NIO launched the ES6, a five-seater high-performance premium smart electric SUV, in December 2018, and began deliveries of the ES6 in June 2019. NIO launched the EC6, a five-seater premium smart electric coupe SUV, in December 2019, and began deliveries of the EC6 in September 2020. NIO launched the ET7, a flagship premium smart electric sedan, in January 2021.

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