



Monday, Oct. 27, 2008

## TIME's Best Inventions of 2008

### 2. The Tesla Roadster

Electric cars were always environmentally friendly, quiet, clean — but definitely not sexy.

The Tesla Roadster has changed all that. A battery-powered sports car that sells for \$100,000 and has a top speed of 125 m.p.h. (200 km/h), the Roadster has excited the clean-tech crowd since it was announced in 2003. Celebrities like George Clooney joined a long waiting list for the Roadster; magazines like Wired drooled over it. After years of setbacks and shake-ups, the first Tesla Roadsters were delivered to customers this year. Reviews have been ecstatic, but Tesla Motors has been hit hard by the financial crisis. Plans to develop an affordable electric sedan have been put on hold, and Tesla is laying off employees. But even if the Roadster turns out to be a one-hit wonder, it's been a hell of an (electric) ride.



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