WardsAuto Names Wards 10 Best Engines & Propulsion Systems Winners for 2023

Winners to be honored October 18th at AutoTech: Electrification in Detroit, Michigan

Southfield, MI, September 14, 2023 – WardsAuto has announced the annual Wards 10 Best Engines & Propulsion Systems winners for 2023, with many of them being electrified.

Electrification continues to power the Wards 10 Best Engines & Propulsion Systems list, with six electrified vehicles, including three battery-electrics and three hybrids landing a spot.

The 2022 Wards 10 Best Engines & Propulsion Systems winners were eligible to return, but only two returnees, the Lucid Air Touring BEV and the Hyundai Ioniq 6 BEV (in place of the Ioniq 5 with the same system), earned repeat honors.

“The market may be starting to cool when it comes to battery-electric-vehicle adoption, but automakers are forging ahead with constant innovation in BEVs that promise increased range and efficiency and ever-quicker charging systems,” says Bob Gritzinger, WardsAuto editor-in-chief.

“At the same time, no one is lifting off the internal-combustion pedal, with more than a dozen all-new or significantly upgraded ICEs on our nominee list, and two big, naturally aspirated V-8s making our winners’ list,” he notes. “We’re seeing the end of ICE era, but those engines aren’t going out without making some noise.”

2023 Wards 10 Best Engines & Propulsion Systems Winners (listed in alphabetical order):

- BMW M2 – 3.0L Turbocharged 6-Cyl.
- Chevrolet Corvette Z06 – 5.5L V-8
- Dodge Hornet R/T – 1.3L Turbocharged 4-Cyl. PHEV
- Ford Mustang Dark Horse – 5.0L V-8
- Honda Accord Hybrid – 2.0L 4-Cyl. HEV
- Hyundai Ioniq 6 – Electric Propulsion System
- Lucid Air Touring – Electric Propulsion System
- Mercedes-Benz AMG C43 – 2.0L Turbocharged 4-Cyl.
- Nissan Ariya e-4orce – Electric Propulsion System
- Toyota Prius Prime – 2.0L 4-Cyl. PHEV

Wards editors and analysts evaluated 32 vehicles: 13 ICEs, 10 BEVs and nine hybrids. The hybrid count included five plug-in hybrids and four hybrids.
Of the 13 purely internal-combustion engines tested, there were five 4-cyl. engines, four 6-cyl. engines (all inline), three V-8s and one 3-cyl. engine. All the ICEs, except two of the V-8s, were turbocharged.

The Wards 10 Best Engines & Propulsion Systems list has recognized 29 years’ worth of propulsion systems, with scoring based on horsepower, torque, NVH management, observed efficiency and new technology onboard. Only powertrains that are all-new or significantly improved are eligible for testing.

A price cap for nominees that had been in place since 1995 was removed in 2021; value remains part of the criteria, however.

The 2023 winners will be honored during the Wards 10 Engines & Propulsion Systems award ceremony taking place on day two of AutoTech: Electrification – October 18th. The event will take place at Fort Pontchartrain in Detroit, Michigan October 17-18. Learn more about the event and book your ticket by visiting www.wardsauto.informa.com/autotech-electrification. All credentialed media are welcome and qualify for free admittance to both the awards ceremony and AutoTech: Electrification.

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ABOUT AUTOTECH: ELECTRIFICATION
AutoTech: Electrification returns for two days complete with engaged networking, valuable content, drinks receptions and the Wards 10 Best Engines & Propulsion Systems award ceremony. The event will assess all the ways in which the industry must prepare for the electric future, from vehicle design and manufacturing through to infrastructure and mobility developments, battery and hydrogen advancements, software-defined vehicle, connectivity, business models and more. Learn more and register for AutoTech: Detroit by visiting www.wardsauto.informa.com/autotech-electrification.

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MEDIA CONTACT:
Alexa Madden
Marketing Manager, Automotive Events & Media
WardsAuto | Informa Tech
Alexa.Madden@informa.com

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