

# TRICKING OUT A COP CAR

*Carbon Motors' prototype is crammed with technology*

**C**arbon Motors Corp., the Atlanta startup carmaker that in July chose the east-central Indiana city of Connersville for its permanent headquarters and assembly plant, is still at least two years from producing its first car—a vehicle designed strictly for law enforcement. Key to the project is a \$310 million federal loan the company hopes will be approved soon, possibly this summer. Carbon Motors has 13,000 advance orders. Chairman and CEO Bill Santana Li anticipates sourcing 70 percent of the car domestically, mostly from Indiana. Most patrol cars will roll off the assembly line priced from the mid-\$40,000 to the low-\$60,000 range, similar to conventional police cars. Cars loaded with all options will be significantly more expensive. The cars will feature technology ranging from thermoplastics to automated license plate readers. About the only thing missing is a doughnut dispenser. •

— Norm Heikens

The entire rear compartment is made of **MOLDED PLASTIC TO ALLOW HOSE-DOWNS** after "anything-a-body-can-do" incidents, Li says.



**AUDIO AND VIDEO** chronicle confessions and anything else of interest in the back seat.

**SEAT BELTS** can be snapped without an officer's having to lean across a suspect and risk bites, spit and head-butts.

Diesel engine, transmission and radiator from **BMW**.

An **LED SPOTLIGHT**, controlled by a joystick on the console, is relocated from the traditional left-front pillar to protect officers from bumping their heads on the interior handles during collisions.

An **INFRARED CAMERA** can see people and animals at night and splash their images on a console monitor.



**SENSORS SNIFF BIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL AND RADIATION WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.** The idea came from Lee Hamilton, a former U.S. House member from Indiana and vice chairman of the 9/11 commission.

**REAR DOORS OPEN COACH-STYLE** to funnel suspects to the seat and prevent escapes.

Cameras positioned around the car **AUTOMATICALLY PHOTOGRAPH LICENSE PLATES** and compare the numbers against a national database of vehicles tied to Amber alerts, thefts and even unpaid traffic tickets. It can process 1,500 plates per minute.

Body panels are **THERMOFORMED PLASTIC** with colors molded in

The rear is designed to **ABSORB A 75 MPH IMPACT.**

**SIRENS, LIGHTS, PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS** and other equipment can be controlled by buttons, touch screen or voice command.

The driver's seat is made of a **TOUGH, KEVLAR-LIKE MATERIAL**. A vent wafts warm or cool air to the back of the neck.

The **FRAME OF EXTRUDED AND HYDROFORMED ALUMINUM** more resembles the frame of a race car than traditional unibody platforms.



A **PRINTER IN THE CONSOLE** delivers speeding tickets on the spot.

**CUP HOLDERS** are heated and cooled.



Seat is **SHAPED TO ACCOMMODATE EQUIPMENT** including guns, handcuffs, Tasers and ammo.

**IBJ.COM EXTRA**

For a walk-around video of the car, visit the online version of this story.

Source: Carbon Motors Corp.