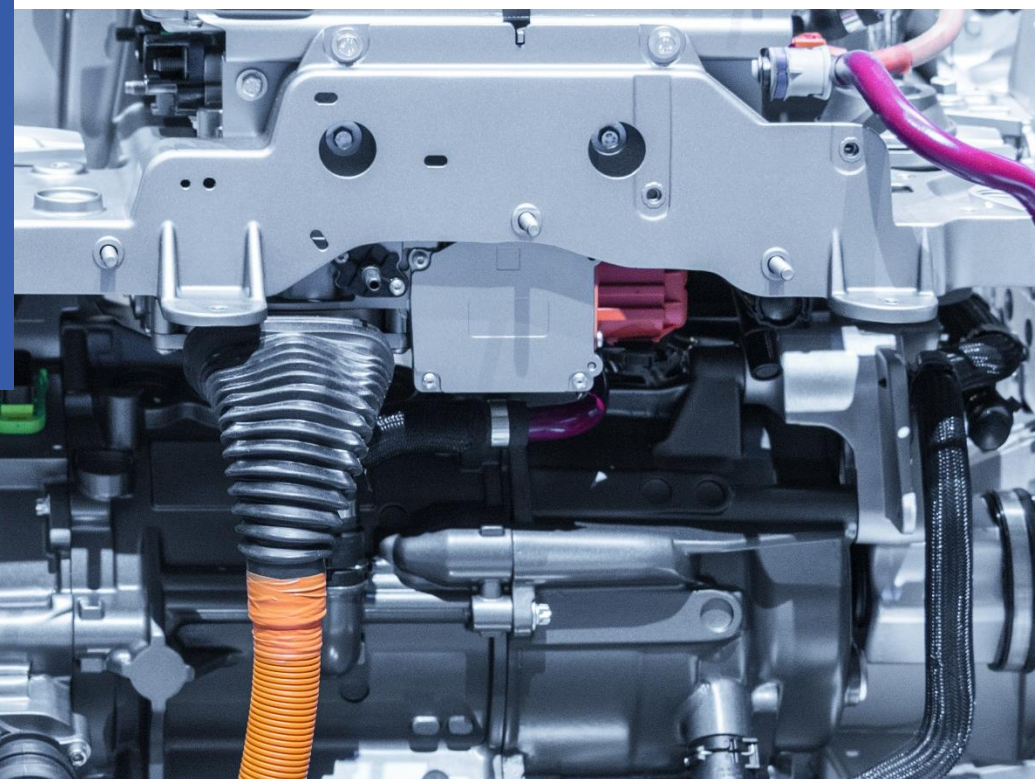
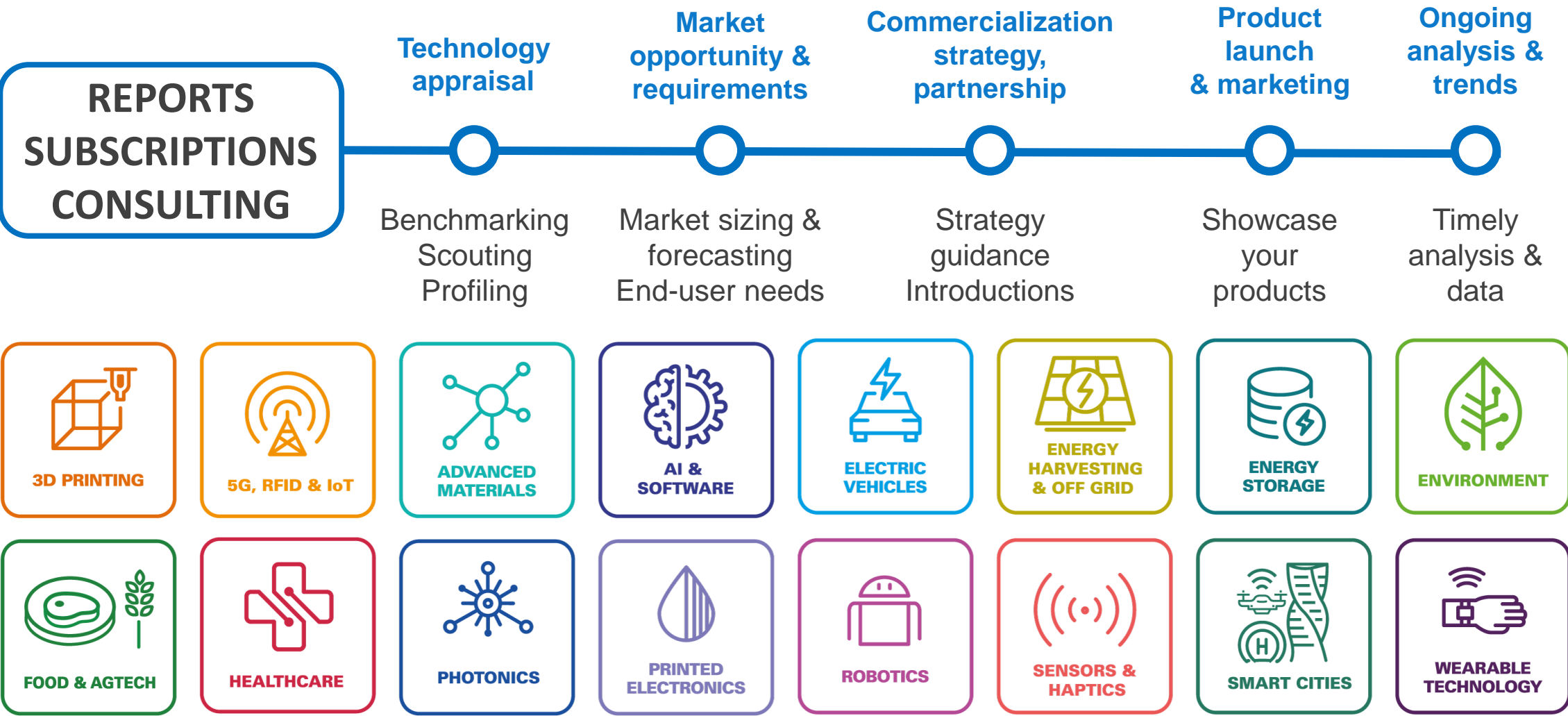


# Electric Motors for Electric Vehicles: Technologies and Market Outlook

Dr James Edmondson, Senior Technology Analyst, IDTechEx



# About IDTechEx

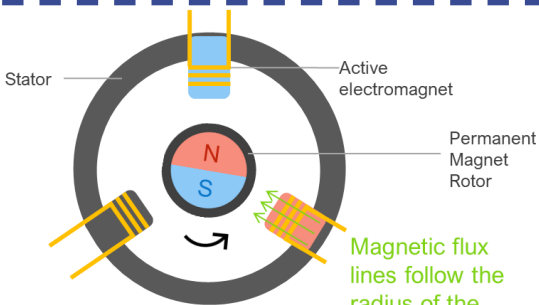


# The Electric Motor Market

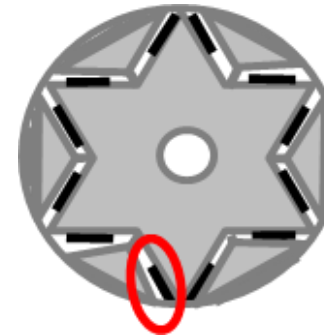
# Summary of Traction Motor Types

- All have inherent pros and cons:
  - Power/ torque density
  - Costs
  - Critical materials

Brushless  
DC  
(BLDC)



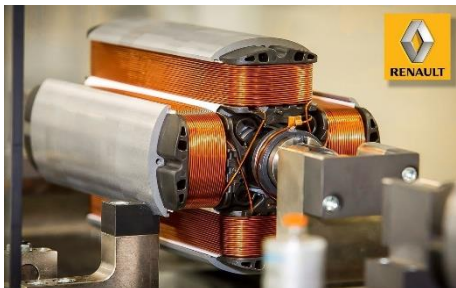
Permanent Magnet  
Motor  
(PM)



Permanent  
magnets

Magnet  
Free

Wound Rotor  
Synchronous  
Motor  
(WRSM)



AC Induction  
Motor  
(ACIM)



Synchronous  
Reluctance  
Motor (SRM)

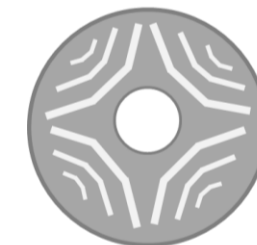


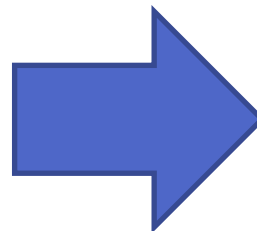
Image sources: Renault, Shutterstock, IDTechEx



# Tesla: Induction to PM/ ACIM Combo



Source: Munro & Associates



Source: Electronics Stack Exchange

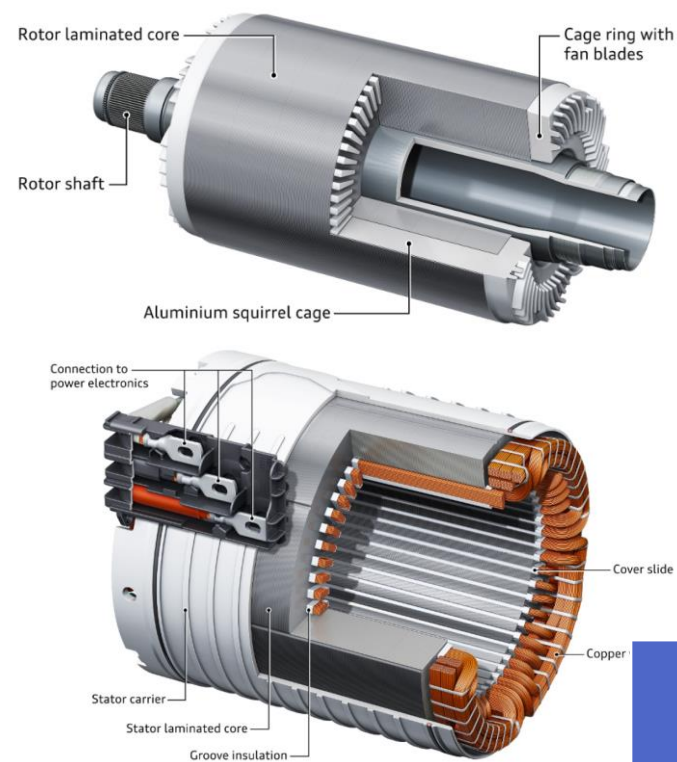


Source: Tesla



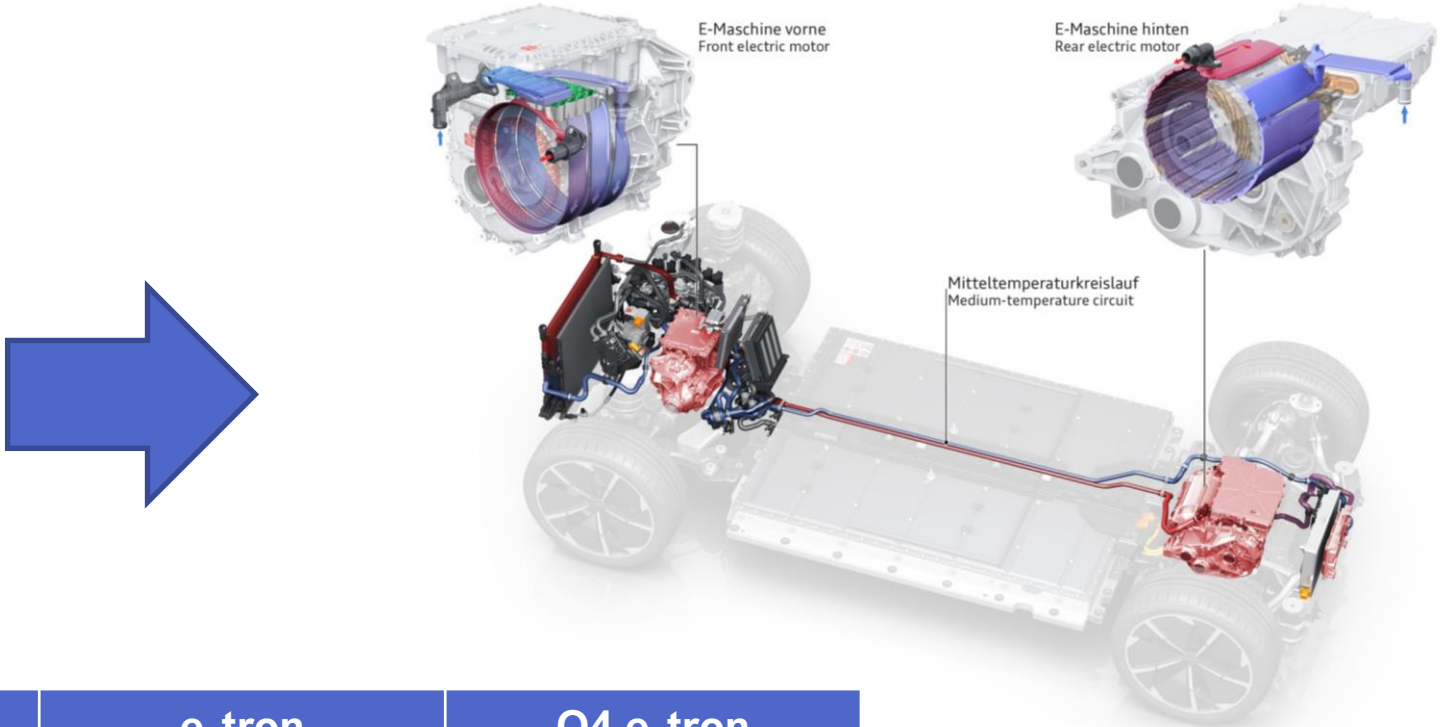
Source: Tesla

# Audi: Induction to PM/ ACIM Combo



Source: Doerr, et al., The new full electric drivetrain of the Audi e-tron.

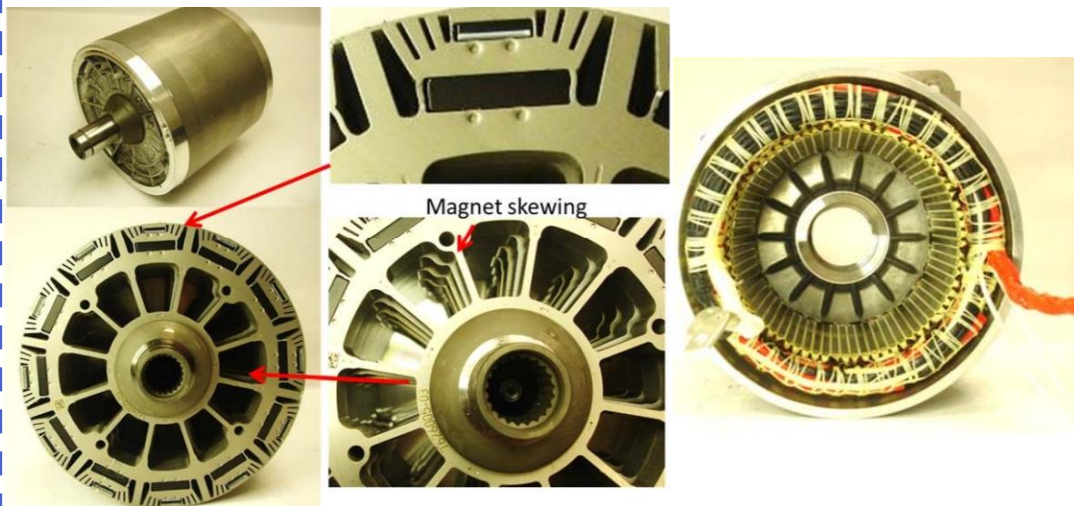
Property	e-tron		Q4 e-tron	
	Front	Rear	Front	Rear
Motor Type	ACIM	ACIM	ACIM	PMSM
Peak Power (kWp)	125	140	80	150
Torque (Nm)	247	314	162	310



Source: Audi

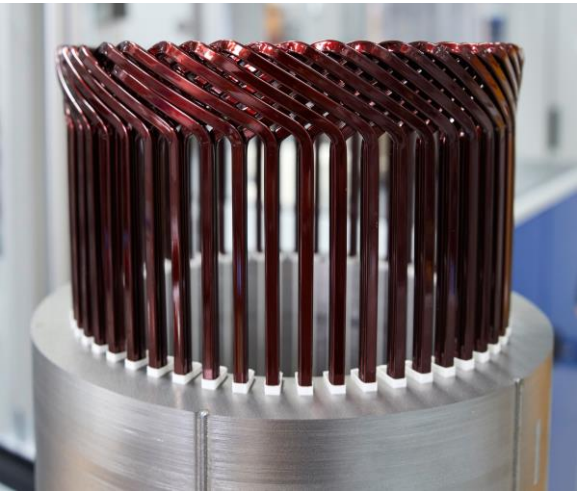
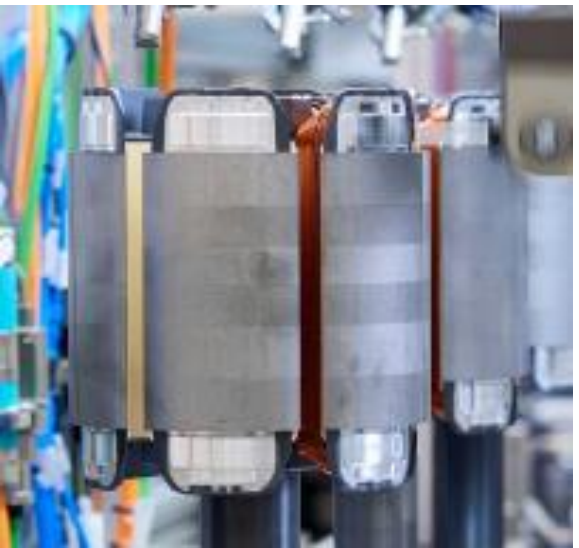
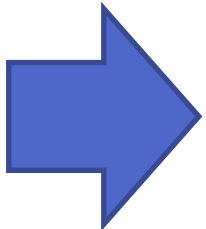


# BMW: PM to WRSM



Source: ORNL

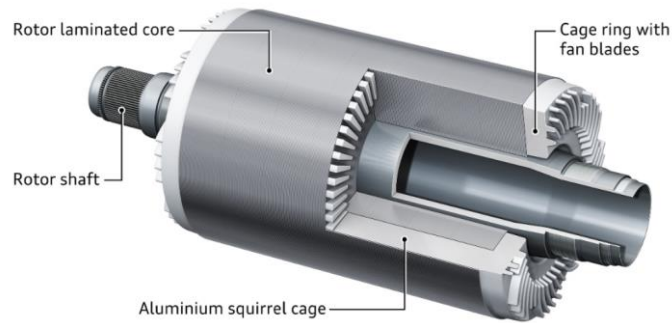
	BMW i3
Power (kWp)	125
Torque (Nm)	250



Source: BMW

Model	i4	i4 M50
Peak Power (kWp)	250	400 Combined
Peak Torque (Nm)	430	795 Combined

# Motor Shares for the Car Market

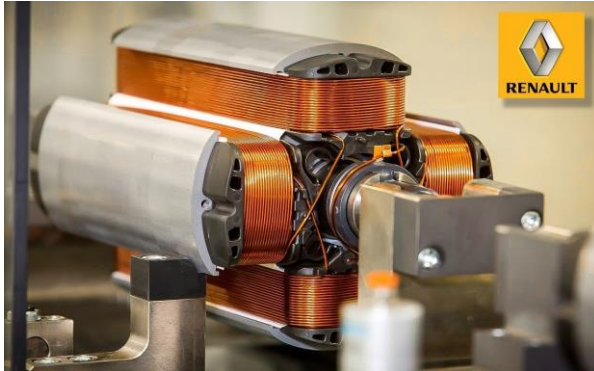


Induction  
**14%**

Wound Rotor  
**2%**

Permanent Magnet  
**84%**

**IDTechEx**  
**BEV & PHEV**  
Car Motor  
Market Share  
**2021**



Source: [Electric Car Sales, Models & Technologies Database](#), IDTechEx

Image sources: Renault, Electronics Stack Exchange, Doer, et. al.



# Emerging Alternatives

# Radial Flux vs Axial Flux Motors

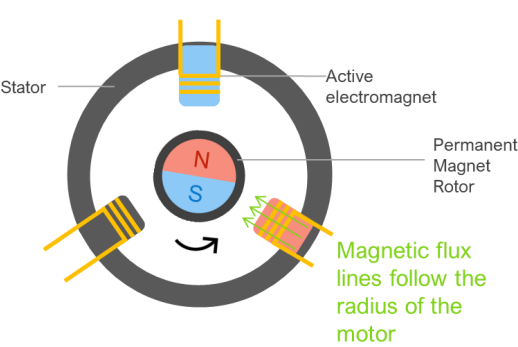
## Advantages

- Increased power and torque density
- Pancake form factor
- Potentially improved thermal management

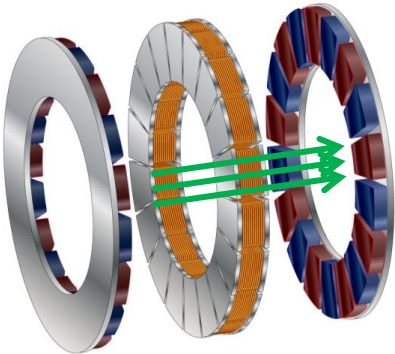
## Disadvantages

- Still has the price, heat and assembly problems of permanent magnets
- Manufacturing time is longer
- High costs in manufacturing

Radial flux motor



Exploded view of a torus axial flux motor



	BMW i3 motor	Magnax AXF225
Motor Type	HSM Radial Flux PM	Yokeless Axial Flux PM
Weight (kg)	46	16
Peak Power (kWp)	125	200
Peak Torque (Nm)	250	250
Magnet Weight (kg)	2	1.2
Power Density (kWp/kg)	2.7	12.5

Image sources: Shutterstock, IDTechEx

# Axial Flux Motors Enter the EV Market



- Initially applied to hybrids with the aim of reducing costs by 5% and CO<sub>2</sub> under WLTP by 2.5 g.
- “Renault Group will be the first manufacturer to produce an axial flow electric motor on a large scale from 2025” – Renault press release.

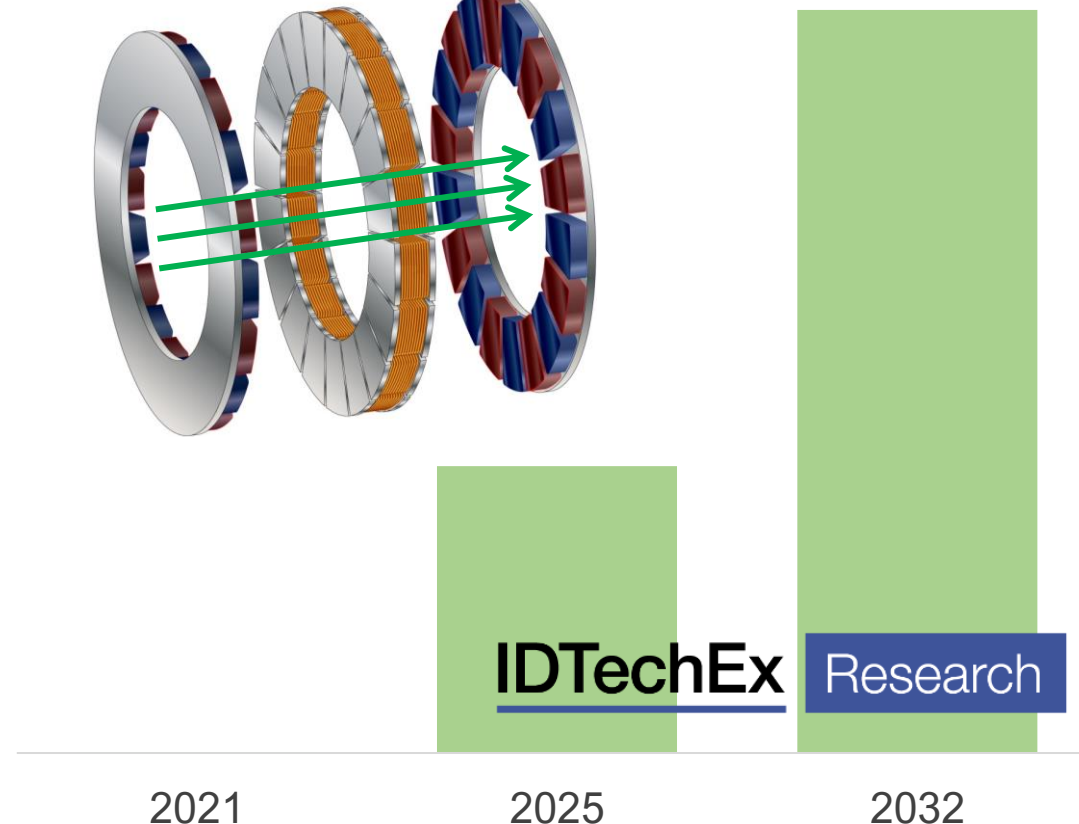
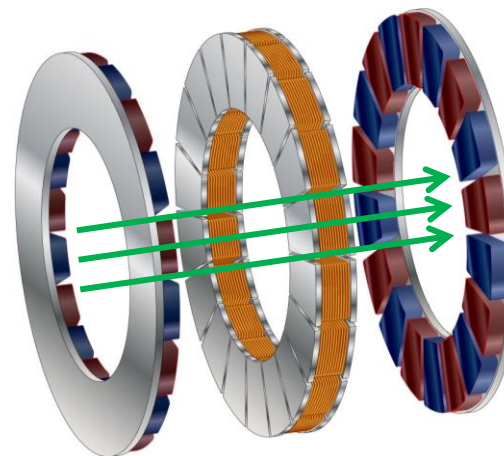


DAIMLER



- YASA has worked with Mercedes-Benz since 2019.
- Provide Mercedes-Benz’s AMG.EA electric only platform with scope to continue development for the wider group.

## Automotive Axial Flux Motors Demand



Source: [Electric Motors for Electric Vehicles 2022-2032](#), IDTechEx



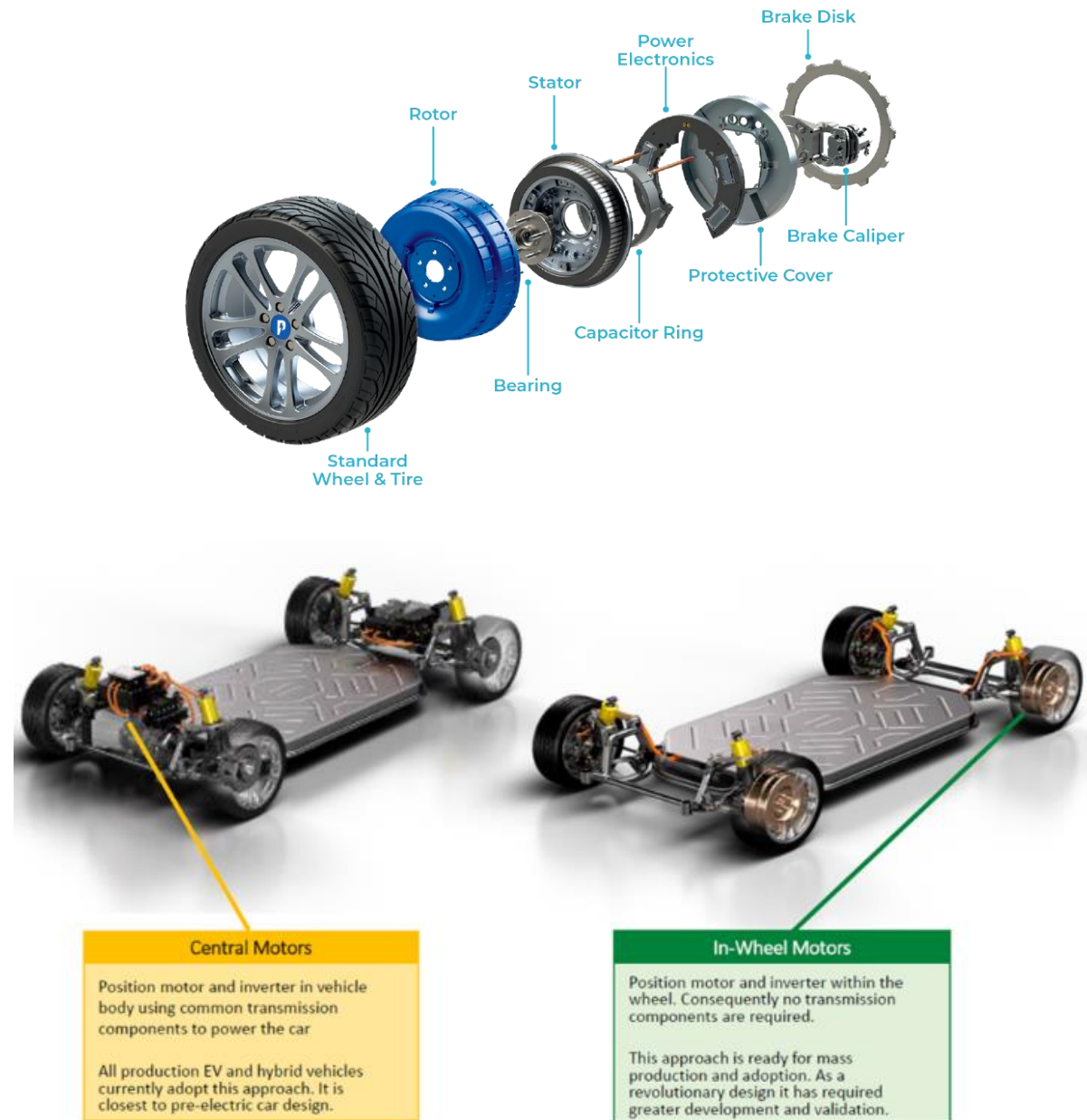
# In-wheel Motors

## Advantages:

- Torque control for each wheel
- No need for differential
- Torque vectoring and traction control enhancements
- In-wheel systems are more efficient at higher load
- Due to being exposed rather than inside the vehicle, cooling is potentially improved
- More space inside the vehicle by removing drivetrain components

## Disadvantages:

- Unsprung mass
- Environmental durability
- Limited motor speed limits power density

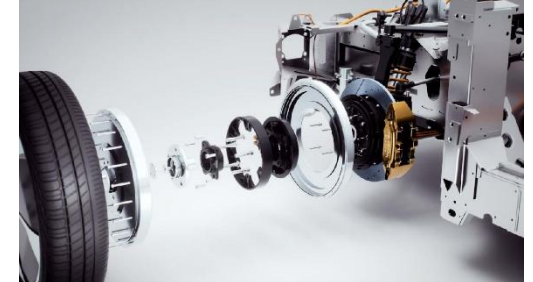


Source: Protean

# In-wheel Motors Enter the EV Market



Source: Lordstown



Source: Lightyear



Source: Apera

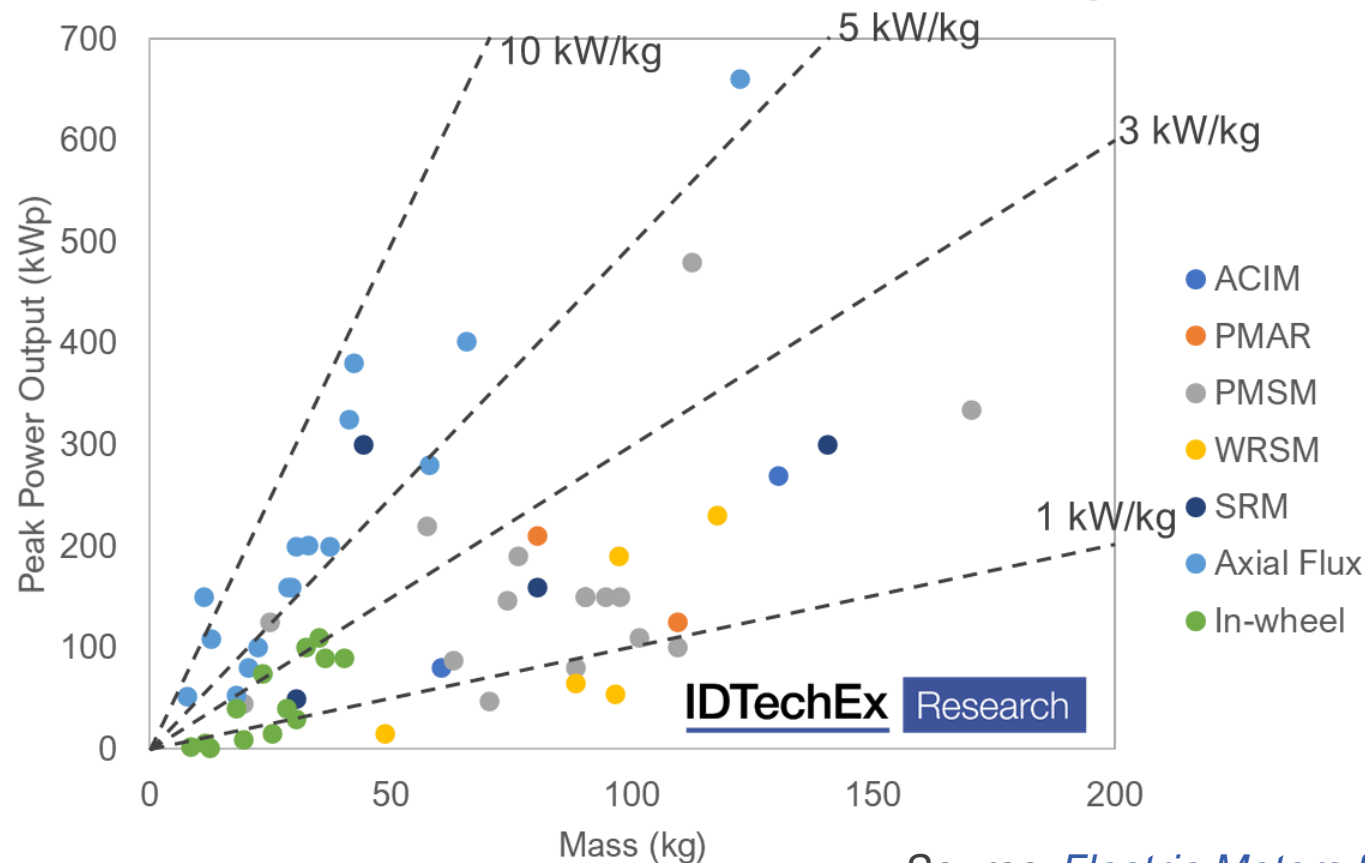


Source: Local Motors & Protean

- **Lordstown's Endurance** pickup truck uses 4 in-wheel motors with tech licensed from Elaphe totalling 450 kWp.
- The **Lightyear One** is a long range solar electric vehicle.
- **Apera** partnered with Elaphe for in-wheel motors for their 3-wheeled solar car.
- **Local Motors** is a company producing autonomous electric shuttles. They use 2 Pd18 in-wheel motors from Protean to total 180 kWp. Local Motors ceased operations in 2021.

# Benchmark against BEVs

Commercial Traction Motors Power Density



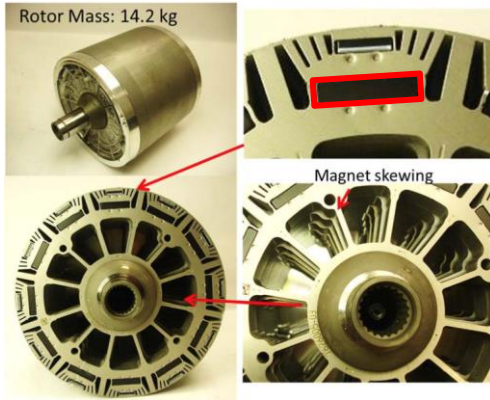
- Axial flux motors present power and torque density benefits.
- In-wheel motors tend to struggle with power density due to the limited speed. But have excellent torque density and other beneficial characteristics.

Source: [Electric Motors for Electric Vehicles 2022-2032](#), IDTechEx



# Rare Earth Magnets

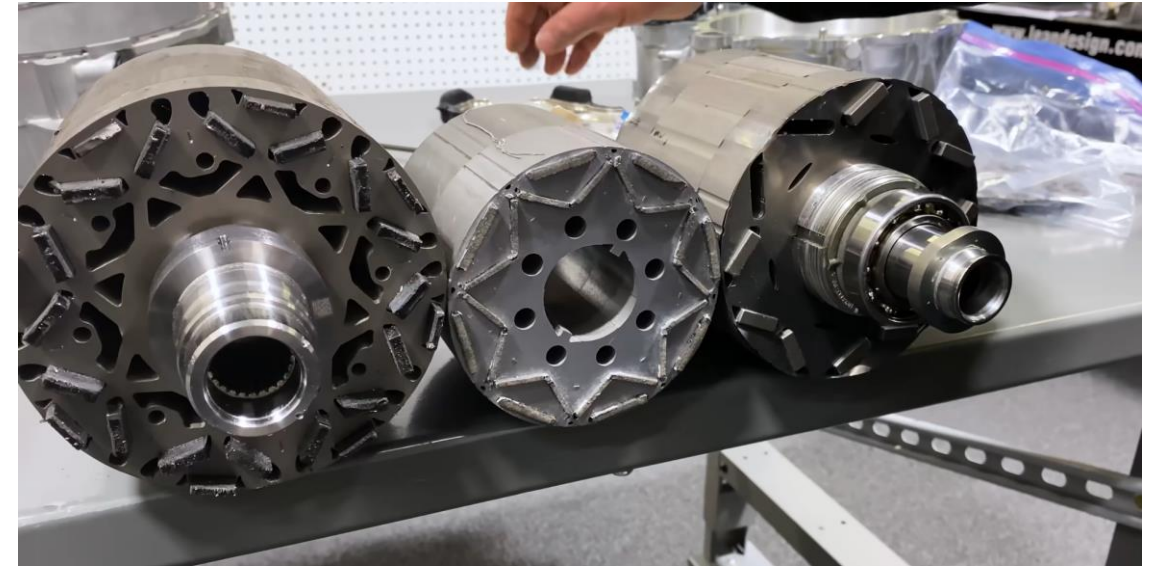
# Magnetic Material Distribution in Rotors



BMW i3. Source: ORNL



2016 Chevrolet Volt.  
Source: General Motors



ID4

Leaf

Model 3

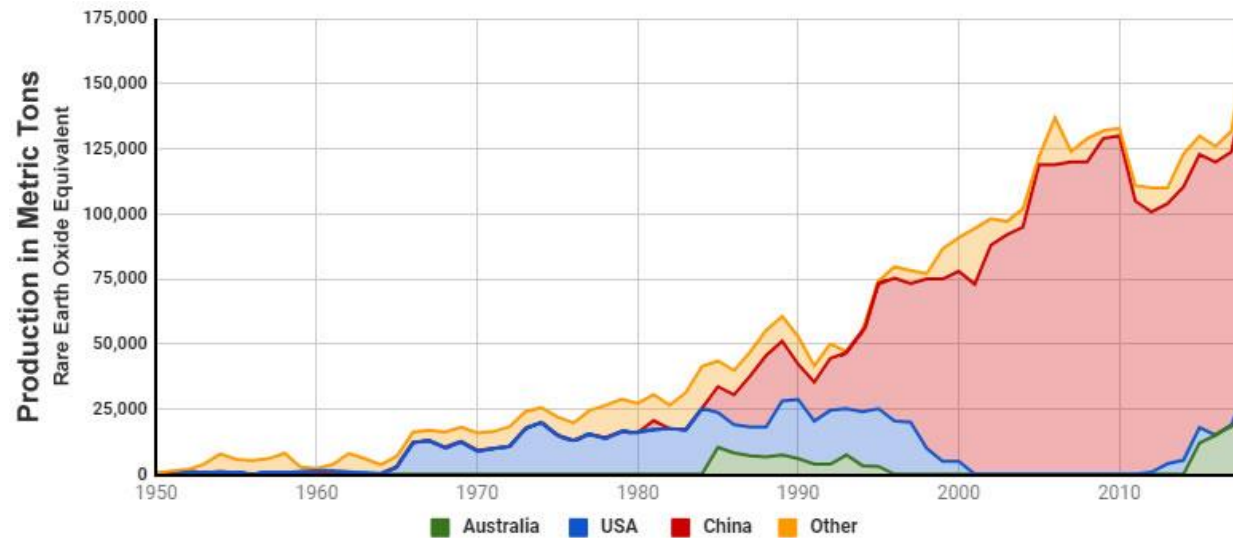
Source: Munro & Associates



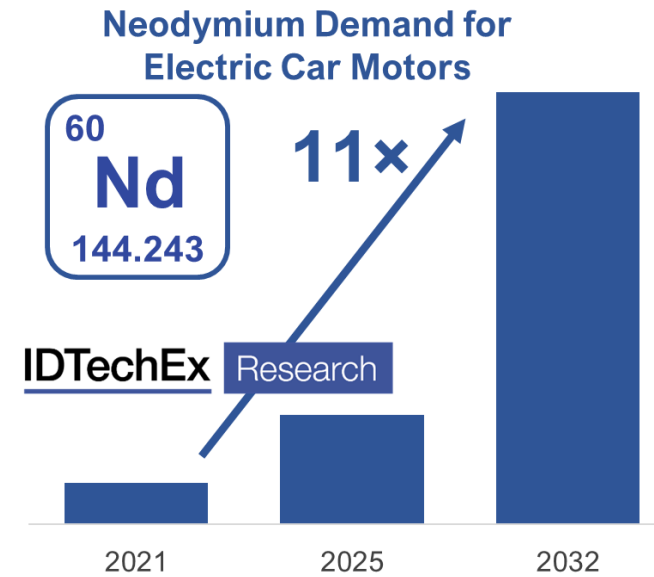
2002, 2010 and 2017  
Toyota Prius. Source:  
ORNL

# Magnet Price Increase Risk

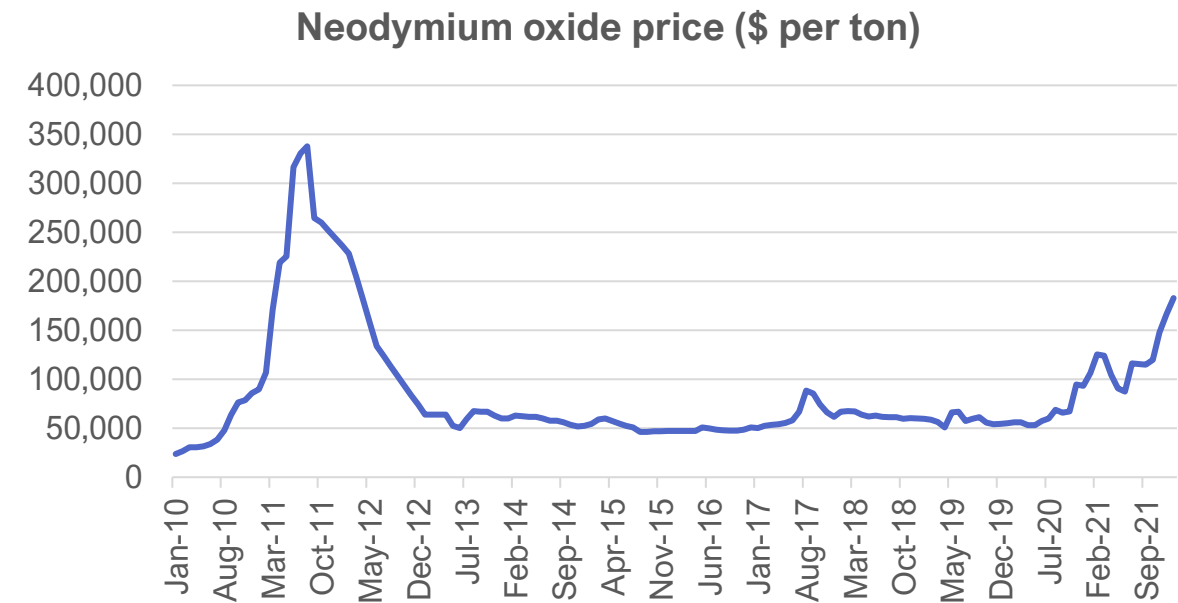
- China is the largest producer of rare-earth metals and hence controls supply and price.
- In 2011/2012 we saw massive price rises.
- Prices settled but are now increasing again.
- IDTechEx expects an 11 fold increase in demand for neodymium from EV electric motors.



Source: Geology.com



Source: [Electric Motors for Electric Vehicles 2022-2032](#), IDTechEx

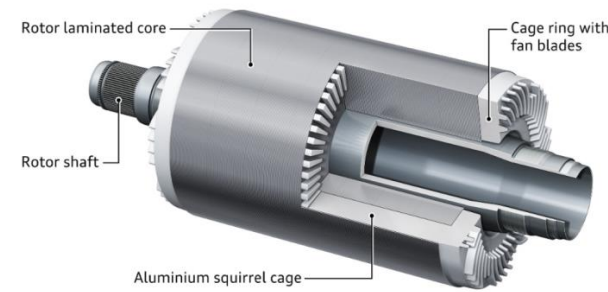


Data source: Trading Economics

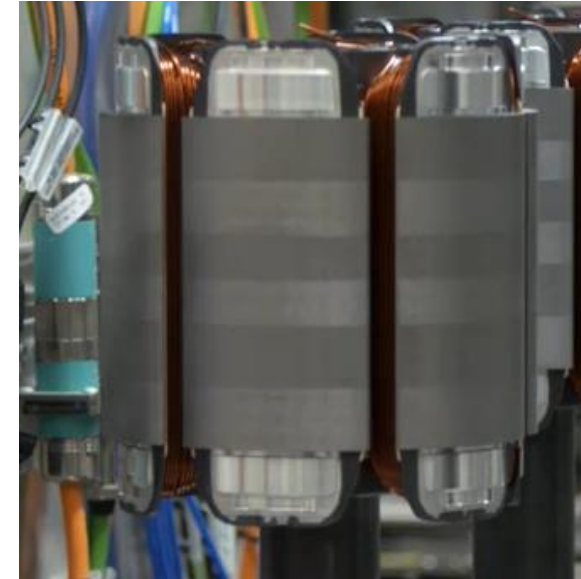


# Eliminating Rare-Earth Usage in Electric Motors

- **Audi** opted for the use of induction motors in the e-tron to avoid magnetic materials. However, their Q4 e-tron (shared platform with VW's MEB) utilises PMs.
- **Renault** utilise the WRSM motor originally provided by Continental so they only use copper for generating electromagnetic fields.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> generation drive train from **BMW** is rare-earth free.
- Alternatives such as those presented by Advanced Electric Machines (**AEM**) providing a reluctance type motor free of magnets and copper.



Source: Doerr, et al., *The new full electric drivetrain of the Audi e-tron.*



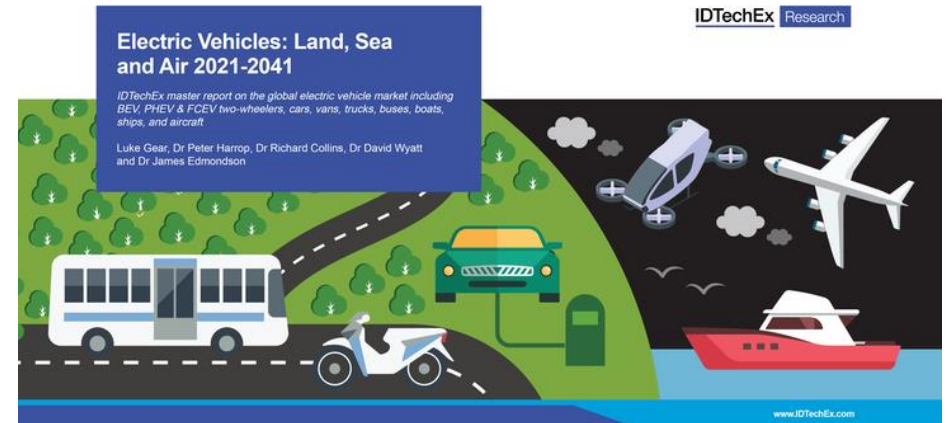
Source: BMW Group



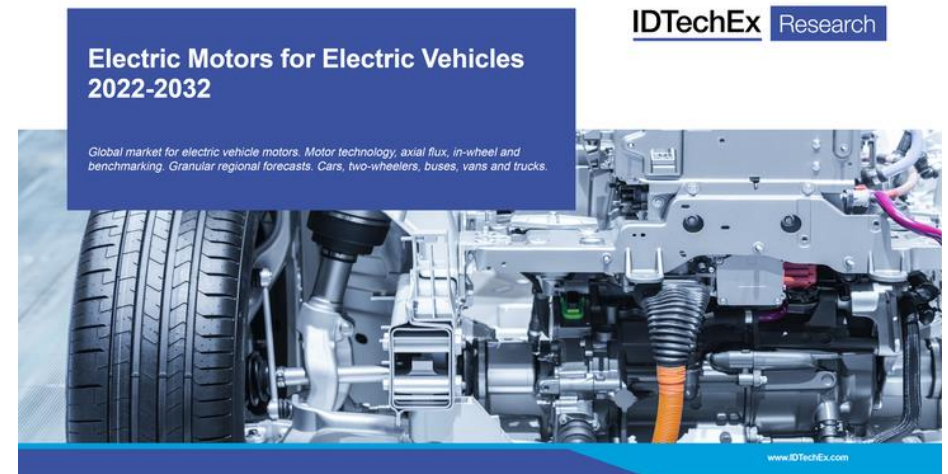
Source: AEM

# Summary

- The electric motor market has largely converged on permanent magnet motors
- There are still trends happening with motor design and adoption of new designs
- Materials in EVs are a critical consideration and motors are a key part of this
- Future opportunity for motor cost reduction will largely be in the material choices



[IDTechEx.com/Mobility](https://www.IDTechEx.com/Mobility)



[IDTechEx.com/Motors](https://www.IDTechEx.com/Motors)

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