

Tesla to scout for site, may bring cars from Europe in first phase

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WASHINGTON: Tesla, the world's leading Indian electric vehicles (EV) manufacturer, has begun the process of producing right-hand drive cars for the Indian market in its Berlin factory and hopes to have them on Indian roads later this year, a person familiar with the company's plans said on Wednesday.

Tesla is also sending a team in the third week of April to India to scout for locations to firm up its mega manufacturing plans to make vehicles in India for the wider developing world.

The person cited above confirmed that the company has got to work on both the export and manufacturing dimensions of its plans after the government of India announced its new EV policy last month. The new policy reduced custom duties on EVs, but linked it to a simultaneous manufacturing investment commitment above a certain threshold, within a

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specified time period, and with a strong localisation component.

HT first reported, on January 13, that India was on the verge of announcing a new EV policy with an eye on attracting global majors such as Tesla, and getting a foothold in the EV and battery industry to meet its climate, economic and strategic objectives.

On Wednesday, Financial Times first reported that a Tesla team would travel this month to India to scout for manufacturing locations.

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