

News from the course representatives

PARTNERS



Tesla test drive

Last week students in Bordeaux got an opportunity to test drive the fastest electric car in the world. The program was organised by the university at Tesla dealership, Bordeaux. The facility is 30 min bus ride from the university. We were greeted with a coffee. The showroom had on display Tesla Model S, and a model S platform with battery, motor, suspension and most auxiliary components. The model was explained to us by a chief technician for Tesla Service. Tesla filled the showroom with merchandise, colour palettes, interior trim choices and an online configurator to configure any tesla model.

We followed the presentation with a test drive of either model S or model X based on our choice. The drive was unique experience for a few reasons. First of which is that its left-hand drive and majority of us were used to right hand drive. Secondly the car was the P100D. The most powerful car tesla produces. We explored the capabilities of the car quite literally by testing the self-driving capability, 0-60 and roll on full accelerations. The experience was scary for most parts and felt like the car would be taking off like a flight. The acceleration sent our heads flying to the headrests and kept it pinned till we let off the gas. Self-driving takes some getting used to as we humans are programmed to intervene when a corner approaches. With a few corners we started to trust the car to do what it is programmed to do and voila! The car was driving itself. It was a surreal experience. Although tesla says it's not the future it's the present. We felt transcended into future where one would see only self-driving cars. The performance of the car brought smiles to every face in the group.

In the world of electromobility there is no ignoring the role Tesla played in creating electric cars not just a mass market solution but also the best in class solution. When in 2025 when electric car prices are suggested to attain equilibrium with ICE vehicle prices. Tesla will be a major contender. They have the passion and a head start for it.

Thankful to the University of Bordeaux for this opportunity.

By **Chandan Sathees**

