



Interviews with development team: Ryugo Nakao

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What we aimed for with Lancer Evolution X

Up to the current model, the primary focus in developing the Evolution series has always been “how fast we can make it go.” With the new Evolution X, however, on top of making it faster we focused on giving it “feel-good” performance, on creating a car in which the driver becomes one with his machine, allowing him to drive fast with confidence – faster than anyone.



What evolutionary steps has Evolution X taken?

Well, you have to realize that Evolution is being driven by a much wider range of drivers these days. There are those who race their Evolutions, and then there are others, some quite advanced in years, who enjoy driving their Evolution for its high-performance sports sedan qualities. So Evolution drivers can be split into quite a number of different groups.

To respond to our customers’ requirements, we not only need to make Evolution faster, we need to make it enjoyable to drive, and add that “feel-good” factor to its performance. If you look at the new engine and turbocharger, for example, our focus was on developing cutting-edge products. So, as you might expect, the new engine delivers more advanced performance than the current model. And yes, Evolution X is faster. Then there’s the chassis and suspension. I’m sure you all think that the Evolution has always delivered incredible grip and traction, but Evolution X goes way beyond anything so far. The car – the four wheels feel as if they are hugging the surface like a limpet. We’ve developed the car to give that kind of impression. So Evolution X represents a huge leap forward in the incredible sense of confidence, in the sense of reassurance it instills in the driver and others on board.

Not only is Evolution X faster, it also delivers a greatly improved ride. So this high-performance sports sedan also has the quality feel of a luxury sedan. I’m talking about the quality of a car’s road performance and Evolution X has that in bundles. So I’m confident that customers who currently drive luxury cars will find Evolution X shares much in common when it comes to quality of ride and handling.





Why MMC keeps evolving the Lancer Evolution

It's our flagship model!

I see Evolution X as the flagship, as the showcase for Mitsubishi's automotive technology. It's a car we can be proud of wherever we take it because we have poured every ounce of our engineering prowess into it, and because it sports a whole range of new components and new technologies.

We use Evolution to develop a variety of technologies and these are then fed back into other models in the Mitsubishi lineup. It is through this process that Mitsubishi's engineering and technological prowess finds its way into many of our models. That is why the Evolution series plays a leading role in road-testing those technologies, providing the justification for feeding them back into other models. And for that reason, it is vital that we keep on evolving and developing the Evolution series.

What kind of car is Evolution X?

Quite truthfully, it is a fascinating car. It's a car that even someone like myself can drive very fast. So it's a car that the average driver can drive fast, with complete confidence, while staying in perfect control. That is why I am confident that every one of our customers will experience great satisfaction, and will be tremendously impressed with Evolution X when they sit behind the wheel and take it out for a spin.

