

2012 Car of the Year finalists announced



2011 Alfa Romeo Giulietta 1.4
125 kW MultiAir Distinctive



2011 Audi A6 3.0 TDI
Quattro S tronic



2011 Citroen DS4 THP 200 Sport



2011 Ford Focus 2.0 TDCI Trend
Sedan Powershift



2011 Hyundai Elantra 1.8 GLS



2011 Kia Picanto 1.2 EX



A vote consisting of the full members and a jury made up of 30 selected members of the South African Guild of Motoring Journalists (SAGMJ) have chosen the ten finalists to partake in the 2012 WesBank/SAGMJ Car of the Year competition to compete for honours in the country's premier motoring event.

The next step in the process is to determine the winner from a two-day test session to be held in February 2012 at the Gerotek test facility near Pretoria, where the cars will be assessed independently by the Jury members.

In keeping with the broadened competition the testing at Gerotek will allow the vehicles to be evaluated under the conditions individual vehicles would be expected to perform under. Routes are designed to evaluate 4x4s or sports cars, as the average consumer would use them.

While Jury members are already familiar with the vehicles they have voted into the final, the testing days offer an opportunity to re acquaint themselves with the cars.

"It allows Jury members to pay close attention to the cars' aesthetics, build quality and ergonomics, while considerations based on perceptions of value for money, cost of a spares' basket, safety features and environmental friendliness can be taken into account before scoring the top ten. Fuel consumption figures are also available as is a range of data that must be considered before pronouncing on which vehicle is the best of the best." according to Mark Jones, convenor of the competition.

South Africa's Car of the Year competition – sponsored for the past 27 years by wheels bank, WesBank, with additional support from Total and Hollard Insurance – is unique in the world in that it is determined by three rounds of voting, the first which is open to all full members of the SAGMJ yields the semi-finalists, a second round open to the only the jury, which determines the finalists and then a final allocation of points after a two day evaluation session at the world class Gerotek testing facility.

The jury is selected from those SAGMJ members who has had the greatest exposure to the model ranges and the manufacturers who launched new models from 1 October 2010 to 31 August 2011 as recorded on the SAGMJ website.

While all of the models are deemed to represent examples of outstanding automotive engineering, there can be only one winner and, in the eyes of the COTY Jury, that model will epitomise all-round automotive excellence.

The announcement of the finalist list was made on 6 October 2011 in the highlight of the opening day at the Johannesburg International Motor Show at Nasrec.

The winner of the 2012 WesBank/SAGMJ Car the Year will be announced in March 2012.

2011 Mercedes Benz SLK 350
BlueEFFICIENCY

2011 Peugeot 5008
2.0 HDi Active Manual



2011 VW Jetta 1.4 TSI
118 kW Highline



2011 Suzuki Kizashi 2.4 SDLX Manual

