

Tesla, Inc. (/ˈtɛslə/ *TESS-lə* or /ˈtɛzlə/ *TEZ-lə*^[a]) is an American multinational [automotive](#) and [clean energy](#) company. Headquartered in [Austin, Texas](#), it designs, manufactures and sells [battery electric vehicles](#) (BEVs), stationary battery [energy storage](#) devices from home to [grid-scale](#), [solar panels](#) and [solar shingles](#), and related products and services.

Tesla was founded in July 2003 by [Martin Eberhard](#) and [Marc Tarpenning](#) as **Tesla Motors**. Its name is a tribute to inventor and electrical engineer [Nikola Tesla](#). In February 2004, [Elon Musk](#) joined as Tesla's largest shareholder; in 2008, he was named [chief executive officer](#). In 2008, the company began production of its first car model, the [Roadster](#) sports car, followed by the [Model S](#) sedan in 2012, the [Model X](#) SUV in 2015, the [Model 3](#) sedan in 2017, the [Model Y](#) crossover in 2020, the [Tesla Semi](#) truck in 2022 and the [Cybertruck](#) pickup truck in 2023. In June 2021, the Model 3 became the first electric car to sell 1 million units globally.^[6] In 2023, the Model Y was the best-selling vehicle, of any kind, globally.^[7]