1. 2008 Rindspeed Squba (<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=552924318982788>)

* The 2008 Rindspeed Squba is a $2 million dollar car that is capable of driving underwater thanks to its propellors and jets around the vehicle. It is an electric vehicle that is powered with a 72 HP engine that could reach speeds of 100 km/h in 5.1 seconds. This is a good example of an electric car that is unique when compared to the likes of premium electric cars such as the models sold by Tesla, and it is also different when compared to electric cars made by manufacturers from Japan’s Toyota, Nissan, Honda, and other manufacturers. Electric cars are becoming more popular as each year passes, the effects of carbon emissions from gasoline-powered vehicles are impacting the planet and making climate change worse. Electric vehicles are not always clean energy, the batteries used to power these vehicles are not good for recycling, however I believe that electric vehicles will become the mainstay for the next generations as people start to phase out gasoline powered vehicles.

1. Lamborghini Terzo Millenio electric car concept (<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=519426815548240>)

* This design is Lamborghini’s own interpretation on how an electric super car would look. Electric cars are often frowned upon in car communities due to how they look and sometimes function. The Tesla models introduced new concepts on electric car design. Lamborghini introduced this car to push the boundaries on the performance of electric cars. The car company also partnered with MIT researchers to introduce the other concepts such as self-healing carbon fiber, nanotechnology and other advanced features.

1. Mercedes-Benz truck concept (<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=592962598002071>)

The third video about the futuristic truck being developed by Mercedes-Benz highlighted several unique technological concepts. One of those concepts is the semi-automated capabilities of the truck. There has been rumors that in countries like the United States where trucking jobs are important because the country is wide and long, truck companies want to invest on self-driving trucks to lessen or remove any accidents caused by human error such as falling asleep during driving. I think this concept of semi-automation is the perfect stop-gap solution to self-driving trucks. As self-driving technology is still being developed and refined, semi-automation would greatly improve a truck driver’s performance. The system could take over the driving and give the truck driver ample time to rest, although this concept is controversial due to the driving laws of each country, this technology could be delayed until an agreement could be reach to allow these types of trucks to be driven.

1. How can the technologies contribute to the future (of the country, the entire environment, or the world?)

* The concept of electric cars could be expanded further with the research and development started by Rindspeed and Lamborghini, the two companies could both introduce the concept of electric vehicles to more people due to the association of their products with a hefty price tag, if a popular individual purchased their products, more people could get curious on electric car technology, slowly phasing out gasoline powered vehicles, improving the environment. The concept brought by the Mercedes-Benz truck could also greatly change the way trucks are treated, as humans become less involved in trucking operations, more people could feel safe knowing that an automated, foolproof system could prevent lives from being taken by accidents.

1. If ever implemented, what will be the risk or constraints that we may encounter?

* The first risk for these technologies would be the cost, the cost to a regular consumer could be astronomical, electric car models sold by Tesla today fetch a hefty price tag, their electric models are top of the line, luxurious, and technologically advanced, let alone a model made by Lamborghini, however, with Lamborghini’s popularity amongst the general population, their company could help in making the image of electric cars better, which would allow other electric car companies like Toyota or Nissan, to make better and more luxurious models for a quarter of the price of Lamborghini. The next issue which could arguably be bigger than the first, are the batteries. The RIndspeed uses lithium-ion batteries to power the car, lithium-ion batteries are generally considered ‘less-toxic’ when compared to other batteries, however this type of battery when in large amounts such as those found on mass-produced electric vehicles, could still potentially harm the environment. Not to mention the power stations used to charge the electric vehicles, the power plants that make electricity for these vehicles are often still using fossil fuels to run the systems that would generate electricity, a paradox of electric vehicles, they are generally considered ‘clean’ yet their methods of getting power is ‘dirty’.

Source: <https://interestingengineering.com/clean-evs-and-dirty-lithium-mining-business>