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For immediate release

### **Sotira Supply Body Panels for Tesla Roadster**

When one thinks of an electric car, it is normally on the basis of sedate urban transport with zero carbon emissions and frankly, not much fun. The Tesla Roadster turns this perception on its head! With an acceleration of 0 to 60 MPH in 3.9 seconds, a top speed of 125 MPH, the performance of this vehicle is a match for any other top of the range sports car but with one exception – it is powered by electricity.

Sotira are delighted to have been chosen to supply the complete set of body panels for this exciting new vehicle which is now on sale in the US – for further information on Tesla, go to: <http://www.teslamotors.com/>

The lightweight panels are produced in carbon fibre reinforced epoxy resin at a nominal thickness of 1.5mm by means of resin transfer moulding (RTM). The parts are supplied in a primed condition from the Sotira facility in Pouancé to Lotus Cars in Hethel, Norwich. Lotus then assemble the panels to the chassis and paint the vehicle. Once they have fitted out the cockpit, the vehicle is sent to Tesla in California for installation of the battery pack, electric motor and transmission.



Production has now commenced with the first car being supplied to Elon Musk, the founder of Tesla earlier this year.

Currently, vehicles are being built to meet the demand of the 600 firm orders and the 400 customers on the waiting list. Next year, it is planned to manufacture a limited edition vehicle for the European market.

**Stop Press – to support the European launch of the vehicle, Sotira and Tesla will be exhibiting at the Paris Motor Show from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2008. See the vehicle on stand A131 in Hall 5.1**

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