

'Baby Benz' to be built in Germany

Mercedes-Benz AG has announced it will build its new A-class 'Baby Benz' city car at its Rastatt plant in Germany rather than at other sites it considered in Britain, France, Spain and the Czech Republic. Rastatt – located in one of Germany's highest-wage regions – was chosen following threats of reprisals from Germany's powerful engineering union, IG Metall



Rastatt: Mercedes' most modern plant. Production will create 2,500 jobs

A-Class 'Baby Benz'

Engine: 3-cylinder 1.2 litre petrol or diesel engines, front wheel drive.

Fuel consumption: 3.3 L/100km

Construction: Steel body bolted on lightweight aluminium frame. Space beneath floor for battery trays enables conversion to electric version.

Length: 3.35 metres – only 25cm longer than Britain's famous mini

Expected price: Around \$12,500



In 1992 Mercedes' cut back its work force by 15,000 following a 45 per cent drop in earnings. The company has also announced 27,000 job cuts in 1994, reducing its staff to about 82,000