



Nissan challenges convention to build the world's first seven-seater bobsleigh

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- Nissan draws on the design and technology of the Nissan X-Trail to transform the standard bobsleigh into a sleek seven-seater
- Inaugural run of the world’s first seven-seater bobsleigh at the historic Olympic track in Innsbruck, Austria
- Watch the first run of the seven-seater bobsleigh: <https://youtu.be/-tL2RLeYGEI>

Nissan has challenged convention with the launch of the world’s first seven-seater bobsleigh in Innsbruck, Austria.

The *X-Trail Bobsleigh* was inspired by the design of the Nissan X-Trail and undertook its inaugural run at the historic Olympic track in Igls, piloted by British Olympic medallist Sean Olsson.

Nissan worked with bobsleigh experts to transform a traditional four-man sled into an X-Trail inspired seven-seater capable of reaching 100 km/h and pulling a G-force of 4.5G*.Watch the video here:



The bobsleigh mimics the Nissan X-Trail’s bold design, with distinctive front aspect, headlamps and seven-seater option. It gives passengers a 360-degree, bird’s-eye view to capture all of the action - identical to the Nissan X-Trail’s Around View Monitor system.

Like the bobsleigh, the X-Trail’s sophisticated ALL MODE 4x4-i system helps the driver keep control even in ice and snow.

Darryl Scriven, Design Manager Nissan Design Europe (NDE), teamed up with expert bobsled manufacturer Diego Menardi and sport expert Ian Richardson to morph car design with Olympic aerodynamics.

Ian Richardson and Diego Menardi have over 50 years of combined experience in the industry, delivering Olympic track experiences and sleighs to winning teams across the globe.

Darryl said: “We wanted to give the opportunity to experience first-hand the adventurous nature of our crossover segment through the thrill and excitement of Olympic bobsleighing.

Nissan Design Europe took inspiration from the shape and character of our X-Trail to create the *X-Trail Bobsleigh*, which was handcrafted by Diego Menardi at his workshop in Cortina. The outcome mimics the fresh ideas and technologies from the brand's ground-breaking crossover models.”

The seven-seater was developed using sketches and computer-aided design (CAD). The detail on the bobsleigh nose was crafted to express the X-Trail’s V-motion grille and capture the sculpture of the hood character lines.

This work was complemented by Diego Menardi’s structural lengthening of the cabin to accommodate seven passengers.

Vital statistics: how the X-Trail and X-Trail Bobsleigh compare

X-TRAIL Tekna 1.6 dCi 4x4		VS	X-Trail Bobsleigh	
Feature	Statistic		Feature	Statistic
Seats	Seven		Seats	Seven
Height	1,710mm		Height	850mm
Length	4,640mm		Length	4,200mm
Gross weight	2,160kg		Gross weight	895kg
Kerb weight	1,580kg		Kerb weight	310kg
Engine size	1.6 dCi		Engine size	N/A
0-100km/h	11 seconds		0-100km/h	30 seconds
Top speed	186km/h		Top speed	105km/h
Power	130PS (HP)		Power	621 HP (463 KW)

For further information please visit <http://www.nissan.eu/neweurope.html>

Notes to Editor

About Nissan in Europe

Nissan has one of the most comprehensive European presences of any overseas manufacturer, employing more than 17,600 staff across locally-based design, research & development, manufacturing, logistics and sales & marketing operations. Last calendar year Nissan plants in the UK, Spain and Russia produced more than 675,000 vehicles including award-winning crossovers, small cars, SUVs, commercial vehicles and electric vehicles, including the Nissan LEAF, the world’s most popular electric vehicle with 97% of customers willing to recommend the car to friends. Nissan now offers a strong line-up of 23 diverse and innovative models in Europe under the Nissan and Datsun brands.

The history of bobsleighs

19th century beginnings

The sport of bobsleigh didn't begin until the late 19th century when the Swiss attached two skeleton sleds together and added a steering mechanism to make a toboggan. A chassis was added to give protection to wealthy tourists and the world's first bobsleigh club was founded in St Moritz, Switzerland in 1897.

Super heavy

By the 1950s, the critical importance of the start had been recognised and athletes with explosive strength from other sports were drawn to bobsledding. In 1952, a critical rule change limiting the total weight of crew and sled ended the era of the super heavyweight bobsledder and rebalanced the sport as an athletic contest.

Back and forth

In its original form, the first races used skeleton sleds made of wood. However, they were soon replaced by steel sleds that came to be known as bobsleighs because of the way crews bobbed back and forth to increase their speed at the start. Today, the world's top teams train year-round and compete mostly on artificial ice tracks in sleek high-tech sleds made of fibreglass and steel.

Olympic history

In 1924, a four-man race took place at the first ever Olympic Winter Games in Chamonix. A two-man event was added at the 1932 Lake Placid Games in a format that has remained to the present. The first women's bobsleigh event - the two-woman bobsled - was held in 2002.

What is g-force?

*The g-force acting on a stationary object resting on the Earth's surface is 1 g (upwards) and results from the resisting reaction of the Earth's surface bearing upwards equal to an acceleration of 1 g, and is equal and opposite to gravity.

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