

LEXUS IS SEDAN RANGE UPDATED

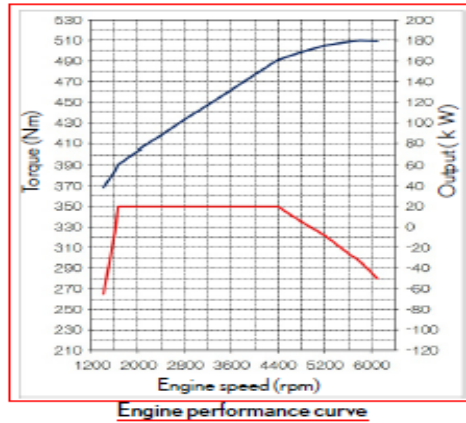
New variants with turbocharged engine now available



The Lexus IS range in Malaysia has been upgraded this month with the introduction of the IS 200t, a new variant with a turbocharged engine which replaces the previous IS 250. Available in four variants - **IS 200t Premium, IS 200t Luxury, IS 200t F SPORT, and IS 300h Hybrid** - the new range also offers advanced features which enhance driving safety.



The IS 200t is the second Lexus model in Malaysia, after the NX crossover, to feature the brand's all-new 2.0-litre turbocharged engine. The 4-cylinder petrol engine (coded 8AR-FTS) was developed by Lexus in-house and has a twin-scroll turbocharger which, together with an intercooler, delivers 241 hp at 5,800 rpm with a maximum of 350 Nm of torque from 1,650 rpm to 4,400 rpm. These outputs represent 17.5% more power and 38.8% more torque compared to what was produced by the 2.5-litre engine in the previous IS 250. They are also the highest in class, surpassing those of rival sports sedan that is available in the market currently.



Engine performance curve

The 8AR-FTS engine achieves its impressive output with features such as a water-cooled cylinder head, integrated exhaust manifold, and Variable Valve Timing intelligent - Wide (VVT-iW) which allows the engine to switch between the Otto and Atkinson cycles according to driving conditions. The innovative engine also has the D-4ST (Direct injection 4-stroke engine Superior version with Turbo) fuel delivery system which combines a high pressure fuel system for injection directly in to the cylinders with a low pressure system for injection into the ports. Injection is split between the direct and port injectors according to the engine load to help fuel economy.

All the power goes to the rear wheels via an 8-speed Sports Direct Shift (SPDS) transmission which has been specially developed to match the characteristics of the turbocharged engine and optimise performance. The transmission has a refined operation with smooth transitions between gears to enhance the feel of linear acceleration.



Excellent driveability is provided with the intelligent computerised management system which makes split-second decisions on gear shifts in accordance with G-forces. It automatically downshifts during hard braking before a corner, holds a lower gear through the turn for best control and then selects the most suitable gear on exit to provide greater throttle response.



The IS 300h continues with proven Lexus Hybrid Drive System which uses a 2.5-litre 4-cylinder petrol engine producing 178 hp and an electric motor producing 141 hp. Maximum torque of 221 Nm is available between 4,200 and 5,400 rpm. The hybrid system has undergone evolutionary improvements over the years, drawing on the extensive experience of Toyota Motor Corporation in the field of hybrid drives since the 1990s.

A 230V, 192-cell nickel-metal hydride battery stores electrical energy for the motor which alone can power the car. In EV mode, it is possible to travel for some distance, depending on the speed and amount of energy available in the battery. There is virtually noise and exhaust emissions are zero.



Optimum efficiency is achieved with the seamless pairing of the Lexus Hybrid Drive with an electronically-controlled continuously variable transmission (E-CVT). This intelligent transmission has an infinite number of gear ratios at its disposal. By constantly analysing the car's speed, road conditions, engine power and driver input, it selects the optimal (most efficient) gear ratio for every moment.



The latest IS 300h is fitted with Active Sound Control (ASC), a new technology that brings into the cabin the sound of the engine via an audio feed through a dedicated speaker. Volume-adjustable, ASC delivers the exciting sound of acceleration and deceleration, even when the engine in the hybrid system is switched off and the car is being powered only by the electric motor. However, the audio feed is automatically deactivated when either Eco or EV mode is selected.



The IS sedan has double wishbone front suspension with a multilink suspension layout to help provide increased grip, control and responsiveness that is expected of a sports sedan. For the IS 200t F SPORT, there is also an Adaptive Variable Suspension System (AVS) which controls the damping force of shock absorbers in response to driving operations and road conditions. Ride comfort and handling stability are enhanced with AVS as changes in the car's attitude do not occur abruptly.

A Drive Mode Select system features up to four driving modes to tailor the car's combination of economy, comfort, performance and handling characteristics. All IS sedans feature ECO, NORMAL, and SPORT modes. For the IS 200t F SPORT, the AVS is controlled with an additional SPORT S+ mode which allows the driver to exploit the full performance potential of the car.



All IS 200t variants have been fitted with a Front Performance Rod which improves stability and handling, providing firmer body control in tighter turns. The driver has a better steering feel and experiences greater agility which contributes to making the car 'Fun to Drive'.



The brake system for all IS 200t variants has been completely redesigned and upgraded. The diameter of the brake discs has been increased to 17 inches from 16 inches, giving better braking feel and stopping power. The brake response has also been improved and braking occurs with greater smoothness and linearity as well as controllability so the driver will always feel confident of being able to stop in time.



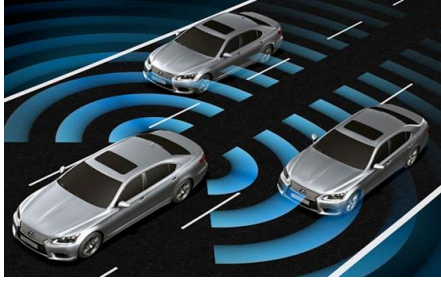
In terms of aerodynamic, the IS achieves a top-level Cd value with just 0.25 Cd giving the IS one of the best aerodynamic vehicle in its class. The great aerodynamic of the IS not only contributes to lower drag with benefits of better fuel economy but also improves stability at high speeds and lowers noises from wind turbulence.



The brand's hallmark luxury appointments in a welcoming interior are retained for the new IS range. To underline its sporty character, the cockpit is designed with a driver-centric approach which allows the driver to focus on driving. All variants are now equipped with powered steering column adjustment as standard. Using a 4-axis knob on the side of the steering column, the driver can easily adjust the tilt angle of the steering column as well as its reach to get the most comfortable driving position.



The new IS range has the most number of airbags in its class; where there were 8 SRS airbags before, two more have been added at the rear for a total of 10. The rear airbags are located at each side of the rear seat next to the door opening. They deploy during a severe side collision to provide additional protection to the rear occupants.



For the IS 200t Luxury, IS 200t F SPORT and IS 300h, a Blind Spot Monitor (BSM) with Rear Cross Traffic Alert (RCTA) has been installed. BSM uses quasi-millimetre wave radar to detect other vehicles in the car's blind spots (up to 60 metres on both sides) and alerts the driver using an amber indicators on each door mirror. When there is vehicle within the Blind Spot area, the indicator will come on and if turn indicator is activated, the indicator will flash to warn the driver not to make the turn as an accident might occur.



With RCTA, reversing out of a parking lot is made safer as the same quasi-millimetre wave radar used by the BSM is also used to detect vehicles approaching from both sides behind vehicle. As these vehicles might not be visible to the driver, a buzzer will sound to alert him or her and indicators will also flash on the door mirrors.



Incidentally, the IS received the full 5-star rating from EuroNCAP when this current generation was first introduced. It was the best score among all large family cars ever tested by Euro NCAP. Features that heighten its level of safety include the highly rigid, impact-absorbing bodyshell and a comprehensive range of active and passive impact features as well as Lexus' unique Vehicle Dynamics Integrated Management (VDIM) system. Injuries to pedestrians which are involved in a collision with the IS can also be reduced, thanks to the pop-up design of the bonnet and construction of the front bumper.



IS 200t F SPORT (White Nova GF)

The new IS range is available with a choice of 7 exterior colours, plus another two (White Nova GF and Heat Blue) which are exclusive to the IS 200t F SPORT. Interior colour themes are coordinated with the exterior colours and are either Black Metallic, Wood Gray Ivory, and Wedge Metal Dark Rose (*F SPORT*) to choose from.

Lexus Security & Solar Film is installed as standard for all variants and a Lexus Emergency Kit is provided as well. This kit consists of a first aid kit, safety triangle, jumper cable and a portable tyre pump. As with all new models sold by Lexus Malaysia, there is a comprehensive factory warranty of 3 years/100,000 kms (whichever comes first after original registration). Additionally, the IS 300h battery pack is covered by an 8-year warranty with no limitation on mileage covered (terms and conditions apply). Complete aftersales support is available at 5 locations in Malaysia where there are professional technicians who have been extensively trained to care for Lexus vehicles.

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