

HOW THE AUTOBEST JURY VOTES

- An Independent, Transparent and Structured Evaluation Process -

AUTOBEST is the largest independent motoring media Jury of Europe with 32 countries represented by the best leading motoring writers, respected professional voices in their own countries. The competition aims to identify the car models that offer the strongest overall proposition for European consumers, combining professional expertise with real-world driving experience and a structured evaluation process.

Every stage of the competition follows defined eligibility requirements and voting rules, ensuring that all jury members participate on an equal basis.

1. Eligibility Criteria

To become a candidate for the enlarged list of Finalists - as it is voted by the Jury members- a car model should:

- **Be a completely new model:** The vehicle must qualify as a new model under the competition rules.
- **Price limit:** The price must not exceed €30,000, excluding taxes and incentives.
- **Market availability:** The model must be available for genuine customer orders in at least 16 countries within the AUTOBEST region, in accordance with the applicable eligibility deadline.

Genuine market availability means that customers must be able to configure and order the vehicle through an actual sales operation. Publishing a price list or announcing a model without enabling real customer orders does not, in itself, meet this requirement.

Compliance with the eligibility criteria is confirmed with the automotive industry before the finalist selection process proceeds.

2. Nominations and Finalist Selection

Each AUTOBEST Jury member submits nominations for the competition, drawing on the eligibility requirements and their professional knowledge of the European automotive market.

Following the verification of eligible models, the Jury selects the finalists of AUTOBEST CONQUEST. The competition does not prescribe a fixed number of finalists; the final selection depends on the Jury's evaluation and the applicable competition rules.

3. The AUTOBEST Final Test

The AUTOBEST Final Test gives Jury members the opportunity to drive, assess and directly compare the finalist models.

On public roads, jurors experience the vehicles in everyday driving conditions, assessing their behaviour and performance in real-life situations. At the proving ground, the finalist cars undergo a series of specific tests designed to evaluate different aspects of their performance, characteristics and capabilities in a controlled testing environment.

Following the Final Test, each Jury member independently completes the official AUTOBEST voting matrix, drawing on their professional expertise, knowledge of the automotive market and direct experience of the finalist cars.

5. The Official Voting Matrix

- **DESIGN - 500 points**
- **TECHNOLOGY - 1,000 points**
- **USER FRIENDLY - 1,500 points**

Ranking Points Sheet																		
AUTOBEST BEST Buy Car of Europe 2026																		
Name of the Jury member:																		
no of criteria Points max /	Design			TECHNOLOGY				DAILY USE / FUNCTIONALITY										
	1 200	2 200	3 100	4 250	5 250	6 250	7 250	8 200	9 200	10 200	11 200	12 500	13 200	3000				
Nr	Model	Design exterior	Design interior	Practicality intuitive us	Ride & handling	advanced tech driver assistance systems/ autonomous	green tech engines/CO2 emissions/ environmentally friendly	active & passive safety	Energy/ fuel consumption	Connected Comfort	versatility functionality	Price	spare parts availability Service	Cost of ownership Distribution network	Total Best Buy	Total Best Design		
															Total Best Tech	Total Best user friendly		
1	BYD Dolphin Surf													0	0	0		
2	CITROEN C3 Aircross													0	0	0		
3	FIAT Grande Panda													0	0	0		
4	Ford PUMA Gen E													0	0	0		
5	MG S5 EV													0	0	0		
6	RENAULT 4													0	0	0		
Total / criteria sum		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total points / criteria		200	200	100	250	250	250	250	200	200	200	200	500	200	3000	500	1000	1500

Following the AUTOBEST jury regulations, the points will go according to the following rules:

- Each member of the Jury has an equal vote, with exactly the same number of points available
- The total amount of points for all cars is max defined for each criteria. The jury member will distribute that points among Final cars.
- No points are allowed to be taken from one criteria and to add to another criteria.
- Each car will cumulate a number of points coming from each member of the Jury. The AUTOBEST award is going to the car with max figure in the rankings.
- Between 1-st, 2-end and 3-rd place there can be maximum 250 points difference
- No car could be granted with 0 points

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The matrix combines the emotional appeal of a vehicle with its technological qualities and everyday usability. Each finalist is evaluated according to the official criteria and scoring rules, ensuring a consistent framework for comparing the competing models.

The category scores also allow the results to be considered separately across Design, Technology and User Friendly, alongside the overall evaluation.

6. Calculation of the Results

Once all Jury members have completed their independent evaluations and the scores have been established for each category of the official voting matrix, the public voting phase of AUTOBEST CONQUEST begins.

For the first time in the competition's history, the public has the opportunity to directly influence the final results, giving consumers an active role in deciding which cars stand out in terms of design, technology, everyday usability and overall value.

The final results combine the professional judgement of the AUTOBEST Jury with the voice of the public, with **50% of the final score determined by the Jury vote and 50% by the public vote.**

This equal weighting applies to the following AUTOBEST CONQUEST awards:

- **Best Buy Car of Europe**
- **Best Car Design of Europe**
- **Best Affordable Car Technology Package of Europe**
- **Best Users' Car of Europe**

The Jury's evaluation remains a central part of the competition, providing an independent, professional assessment based on first-hand driving experience and the official voting matrix. The public vote complements this expertise by allowing consumers to have a direct say in the outcome.

By bringing together professional automotive expertise and public participation, AUTOBEST CONQUEST creates a more inclusive decision-making process in which both the Jury and the public have an equal voice in determining the winners.

The ultimate accolade winning model - Best Buy Car of Europe - is the one that achieves the strongest overall result.

Through its independent jury, real-world vehicle testing and structured scoring system, AUTOBEST CONQUEST provides a transparent and consistent approach to evaluating competing cars and identifying the model that best meets the competition's objectives.