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Ahead of the Times

After World War II the Japanese aircraft manufacturer Tachikawa Aircraft had to look for a new branch of production, as it was not permitted to follow up its regular profession.

Due to the increasing demand for means of transportation at this time, which promised a future-oriented business segment, and by reason of fuel shortage the decision was taken to develop an electric vehicle. As manufacturing company the plant Tokyo Denki Jidoosha was founded. The automobile with the abbreviation E4S-47 was presented in May 1947 for the first time and got the name affix Tama; the name of its production site. Visually the car appeared a little clunky and bulky. But due to the fact that engineers, who solely had worked on airplanes up to this point, made the vehicle it is hardly surprising. The interior of the boxy car provided enough space to convey four passengers and was accessible through two rear-hinged doors. In a small trunk behind the rear seats some luggage could be

stowed away. The micro car met the needs of the Japanese post-war generation and therefore did only differ marginally from other vehicles on the market. But it had one major unique feature, its engine. The Tama E4S-47 was fitted with a 16 volt - 120 ampere electric front-mounted engine, which produced 3.3 kW. Its power was supplied by batteries, which were exchangeable from outside. Through a two-speed gearbox the Tama reached a top speed of 35 km/h.

The Tama was available from 1947. But the electric vehicle was not granted to achieve the desired commercial success and that is how it came that the Tama made way for a successor already in 1948.

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