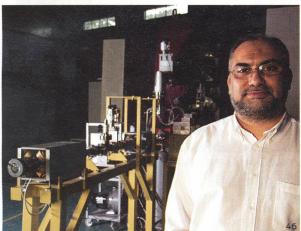


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START IT UP:

Sleek lines hide even sleeker engineering inside this year's crop of high-tech cars [top]; Amor Nadji is helping build a particle accelerator in Jordan [bottom left]; Hiroshi Ishiguro watches over his robot replica.

COVER: MERCEDES-BENZ

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