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Flying machine takes high road to work

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IMAGINE it's Monday morning and instead of spending precious hours seething in peak-hour traffic, you jump into your flying car and bypass all the chaos.

That dream could soon become a reality with the invention in the Netherlands of what's been billed the world's first practical flying car. Experts say Australians might be flying them soon.

The personal air and land vehicle (PAL-V) is a three-wheeled car that has a single rotor in its roof and a propeller at the rear. It can fly up to the 1500-metre ceiling where commercial air space begins and has a top speed of 200kmh, on land and in the air.

PAL-V Europe BV has spent six years developing the concept and is building the first commercial prototype. The company says it receives inquiries from potential buyers every day.

The car can run on petrol, biodiesel or bio-ethanol and will cost \$US75,000 (\$85,000). "Since Henry Ford built the Model T Ford, people have been dreaming of a vehicle that could drive and fly," the vehicle's inventor John Bakker said. The Australian Civil Aviation Safety Authority's Peter Gibson said it would be possible to operate a PAL-V in Australia but limitations would include the need for a pilot's licence.

Source: The Sun-Herald

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