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# Greener camping: Sonic X breaks barriers

Prototype travel trailer generates excitement, leads to new commercial models.



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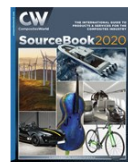
What started as a demonstrator vehicle for a new recreational vehicle show, the Sonic X carbon composite-skinned travel trailer with solar panels and onboard water-filtration system won so many awards in 2019 and achieved so much customer, dealer and media attention that its developer, KZ Recreational Vehicles, decided to produce a commercial version of the greener camping trailer. Source | KZ Inc.

After 55 years, the Recreational Vehicle Industry Assoc. (RVIA, Reston, Va., U.S.) canceled its long-standing fall RVIA show in Louisville, Ky., U.S. In its place, the group developed a new spring event (the RVX show) focused on concept RVs and designed to move to a different city each year. The first show was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S., in March 2019.

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A few months before that event, a team at KZ Recreational Vehicles (K.Z. Inc., a subsidiary of Thor Industries Inc., Shipshewana, Ind., U.S.) gathered for a day-long brainstorming session to decide what kind of prototype to develop for the show. With members from engineering, marketing, sales, manufacturing, purchasing and management, the team wanted to make a big splash and create a memorable concept RV for their display. The result of that exercise was a more sustainable travel trailer — sporting carbon fiber composite skins, roof-mounted solar panels and an on-board water purification system that converts lake or stream water into safe, potable water. The unit was called *Sonic X* and was a hit at the show. It

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