

## **Toyota axes iQ production in Europe**

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**By dpa**

Toyota's ingenious iQ microcar is being axed in Europe but will continue to be sold in North America and Japan, the company has announced.

The final Europe-bound examples of the two-door runabout will be turned out at the Takaoka plant in Japan in May, a spokeswoman confirmed.

Billed as the world's smallest four-seater, the ultra-compact iQ quickly carved out a niche for itself in Europe. The car bowed in at the 2008 Paris Car Show.

Sales in Germany stood at 10,229 units in 2009 but plunged to just 738 last year as potential buyers held back in anticipation of a model change. Toyota has sold a total of 96,000 iQs in Europe.

Toyota said the decision to pull the iQ was made so as not to impinge on sales of the new larger Aygo. It has been completely revamped for 2014 and will sell as a five-door city car. Both Peugeot and Citroen produce a rebadged version of the same vehicle.

The cheeky looks of the new Aygo mini are said to have been cartoon-inspired and its appearance is designed to appeal especially to Europeans.

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