

# 1990 CHEVROLET CORVETTE "ACTIVE" ZR-1 PROTOTYPE

By Paul Pollock



Saw a very interesting listing for the Barrett-Jackson auction in Scottsdale, AZ scheduled for Jan-21-2017. It is a 1990 ZR-1 Corvette which apparently served as the research "mule" for GM's R&D department.

It's listed as lot #7004.1 and you can read more about it at <http://www.barrett-jackson.com/Events/Event/Details/1990-CHEVROLET-CORVETTE-ACTIVE-ZR1-PROTOTYPE-201599>



Active suspension was all the automotive technological rage in the 1990s. It offered the best of both worlds: super luxurious ride and racecar like handling. It accomplished this with hydraulic systems that adjusted the suspension in a fraction of a second, as commanded by ride height position sensors.

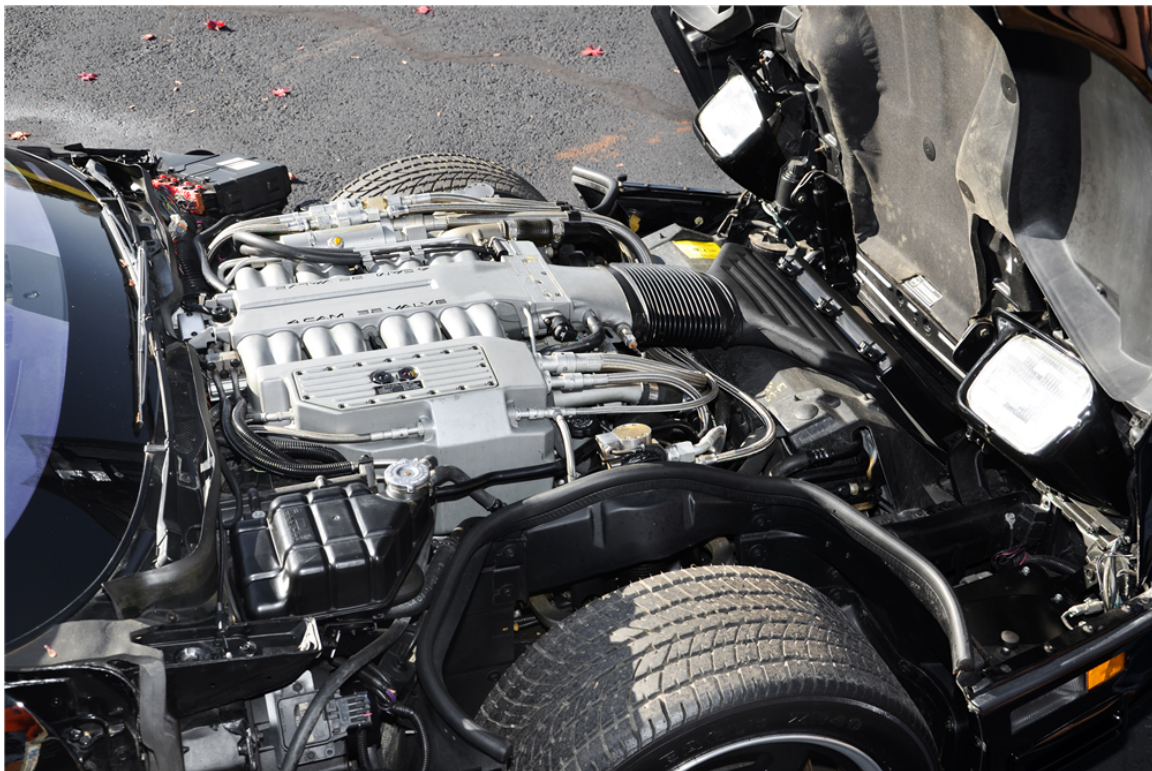


Demands of the real world meant that full active suspensions would not be offered to the public. The system required 3,000 psi of hydraulic pressure and accomplishing that with consumer budgets and reliability expectations just was not possible. GM decided to go with a more evolutionary approach, and the result is the popular Magnetic Selective Ride Control.





In an unusual move, a GM test bed for the system, as added to a 1990 Corvette ZR-1, will be available to the public. Billed as a “concept vehicle out of the GM Heritage Collection”, it is sold with a scrap title; this means that it can’t be registered for the road. Or maybe they just don’t want you to.



Photos from the Barrett-Jackson web site reveal an engine bay with hydraulic systems utilizing steel braided hoses, lots of them. Exterior photos show cooling fender vents, although it isn’t clear if they are there out of engineering necessity or marketing considerations.



Interestingly, this Corvette was previously sold by Barrett-Jackson in January 2009 for \$137,000 (\$150,700, including buyers commission). The 2017 rendition is a no reserve auction, meaning the car will sell. With its strong GM connection and history, it will be very interesting to see the sale price.

**/\*\*\*\*\* Update \*\*\*\*\*/**

This 1991 Corvette Active Suspension prototype sold on Jan-21-2017 for a hammer price of \$80,000. Add the Barrett-Jackson 10% commission and the price to the buyer was \$88,000. Considering it was sold at one time for \$137,000 and you can understand the old adage "The auction giveth and the auction taketh away".