



# Learning curve at full throttle

## Silverstone car test for young engineers

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**STUDENTS from Huddersfield University may not have come up with the right formula for racing victory.**

But the group of budding engineers still made a successful trip to the track in an international car-building contest.

A team of 20 students took part in their own version of Formula One at the Silverstone circuit in Northamptonshire.

**Formula Student** saw 72 teams from around the world building racing cars from scratch on a budget of £16,000.

They had to perform a series of rigorous checks, presentations and

driving exercises to test cars' acceleration, speed, handling and endurance in front of industry professionals.

Huddersfield finished 42nd, but Phil Kelly, principal lecturer in manufacturing and engineering, said the event was not about winning.

He said: "We enter the competition to enhance the practical and professional experience of students by exposing them to the technical, practical and managerial challenges of a real engineering project.

"The students make all the decisions themselves – it really helps them understand what engineering is like in the real world."

Huddersfield's team, which met Huddersfield MP Barry Sheerman, was backed by Cummins Turbo Technologies, who make turbochargers at Turn-

bridge, Huddersfield.

The company's quality executive Mandy Kennedy said: "Together, as one of the largest employers and principal higher education providers in the town, we play a vital role in providing local opportunities.

"By strengthening these bonds, we aim to encourage the development of local talent from our diverse communities."





**ENGINEERING PROJECT:** The mechanical team with the completed car



■ **SCRATCH-BUILT:** Huddersfield University students prepare the car for Silverstone (S)