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 News Release from: **Institution of Engineering and Technology**
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Student racers pioneer alternative fuels

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For the first time in the history of the competition, this year's Formula Student event at Silverstone included three entries from "low carbon" cars.

Low carbon racing cars designed and built by student engineers have made their debut at the **Formula Student** competition at Silverstone, the UK's home of **Formula 1** and venue for **Lewis Hamilton's** recent victory. Students from Hertfordshire, Oxford Brookes and Coventry **Universities** entered the new category for low carbon cars.

The University of Hertfordshire unveiled a hydrogen racing car along with Oxford Brookes University's hybrid racing car and Coventry University's biofuel car.

Formula Student is supported by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and this is the very first time in the competition's 11 year history that there is a category for cars powered by low carbon fuel.

To mark the occasion, all three teams were presented with certificates of achievement by the IET.

John Saville, a Member of the IET and judge of this year's Formula Student competition, said: "I've been involved with Formula Student for a number of years and have been working hard to ensure the new category is part of the competition".

"Alternative fuels are crucial to the future of Formula 1 and Formula Student is leading the way with the future of engineering and highlighting the importance of developing greener technologies, such as hybrid and hydrogen, for transport and the environment".

Dr James Marco, a Member of the IET and Formula Student judge, presented the certificates along with John Saville.

He said: "Formula Student is Europe's biggest student **motorsport** event and it inspires the next generation of engineers, develops their skills and provides invaluable practical experience".

"It is important that the next generation of engineers appreciate the importance of applying sustainable technology within the automotive sector".

"They will be responsible for developing the designing the green cars that many of us will be using in the future in the drive to combat carbon emissions".

With the development of new fuels and sources of energy, come new engineering challenges.

And, Dr Marco, a lecturer in automotive engineering at Cranfield University, is working on a number research projects involving the design and verification of both hydrogen powered and hybrid **electric vehicles**.

Marco said: "The design of highly complex alternative powered vehicles is one the greatest challenges that the international **automotive industry** is currently facing and in many regards Formula Student is at the forefront of this challenge".

James Marco and Millbrook Proving Ground have been advising Formula Student on ways to accurately measure the **energy efficiency** of these new innovative vehicles.

Marco added: "With conventional powered cars once you've filled up at the garage your tank is full and the car's fuel gauge measures how much fuel is being used".

"However, with newer fuels, such as hydrogen and the stored electrical energy in batteries understanding the 'fuel' available is far more complex and appropriate measurement techniques do not yet exist, we are working with experts at Millbrook to devise tools and techniques that are required to introduce this technology to the automotive industry".

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