

## FORMULA STUDENT

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# Race to find world's greenest eco car

## Formula Student Launches Low Carbon Competition

### Immediate Release

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The race to find the world's greenest eco-race car is in top gear as the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) launches its first ever Low Carbon competition in Formula Student (FS).

Britain's brightest young engineering minds are already working on developing green-powered race cars to run at Silverstone Racing Circuit for the 2008 event.

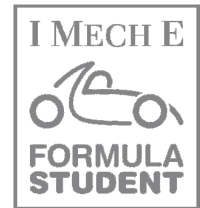
IMechE is launching Low Carbon at Silverstone on Monday 22 October to highlight and raise awareness of the importance of green fuels and technologies which many of us could be using in the near future in the drive to combat carbon emissions. Flybrid Systems, developers of hybrid technology, is the main sponsor of the new category. At its helm is Jon Hilton, former Renault F1 Technical Director, and Doug Cross, former Renault F1 Design Manager. Government-funded Energy Efficient Motor Sport (EEMS), which encourages alternative fuels in motorsport, is also a sponsor of the event.

- Formula Student's Low Carbon race cars can be powered by anything – even hydrogen sourced from farm manure!
- Passenger transport makes up 20% of the UK's total carbon emissions.
- Hybrid technology developed for Formula 1 could reduce carbon emissions by 50% when used in road cars.



This will be the first time eco-powered race cars have been included in FS, which is Europe's biggest motorsport event. Sponsored by Honda F1 Racing, it is the only event of its kind giving students from around the world, practical skills by competing in a single-seater race car they have designed and built from scratch.

John Wood, FS Chairman, said: "The event is an innovative, cutting-edge competition, and alternative fuels are on everyone's agenda. It also ties in with the IMechE's key themes, Education, Environment, Transport and Energy, so it makes enormous sense for us to be a leader in this area."



“These students are pushing the boundaries with some very exciting, revolutionary technology coming through and we have deliberately put little restrictions to encourage the next exciting chapter in FS,” Mr Wood said.

The low carbon race cars will be judged on the amount of carbon emissions produced and can be powered by anything - even hydrogen sourced from manure which students from Hertfordshire University have tested! They will also compete in the same dynamic events: sprint, skid pad, acceleration and endurance, as petrol powered vehicles allowing the performance of the cars to be compared.

Jon Hilton, also FS Chief Judge, said: “It will be up to this next generation of engineers to solve problems surrounding vehicle emissions and alternative energy, and Formula Student gives them the essential, practical skills they need to achieve this.

“Motorsport has got a huge contribution to make to new carbon technologies. The development of alternative fuels in a motorsport environment like Formula Student is extremely fast and everything learned can be directly transferred to road vehicles,” he added.

Flybrid, based at Silverstone, is developing the first hybrid race car to run in Formula 1 in 2009, using a kinetic energy recovery system that could reduce carbon emissions by 50% when used in road vehicles.

Passenger transport makes up 20% of the UK’s total carbon emissions, and Flybrid hopes to roll out its new hybrid technology in the next two years.

Alan Mercer, EEMS Programme Manager, said: “For EEMS, Formula Student provides an excellent opportunity to ensure future engineers are developing skills, experience and confidence in the use of alternative fuels and technologies. This expertise will see these technologies not only being adopted in mainstream motorsport but also applied across transport as part of the solution to global climate issues.”

There are already three UK teams set to enter the Low Carbon Competition. They are Hertfordshire University, with a hydrogen race car, Oxford Brookes University, with a petrol/hybrid race car and Imperial College London with an electric hybrid fuel cell racing car, all of which have comprehensive research projects under way surrounding alternative fuel technologies

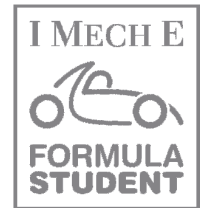
FS teams will get their first taste of the competition at a practice track session at Learn To Win, at Silverstone Racing Circuit on October 27-28. Specialist workshops, driver training, and expert tips from judges are included in the two day event, sponsored by Learning Grid.

Formula Student is in its 10<sup>th</sup> year and a record number of 118 teams from Iran to Europe entered this year. Students are also judged on design, presentation and cost assessment by leading experts from industry and motorsport.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

- For more information on this release please contact the IMechE Press Office on 0207 304 6973 or email [media@imeche.org](mailto:media@imeche.org) . For more details on the event, please visit the dedicated website [www.formulastudent.com](http://www.formulastudent.com)



- The IMechE is the global voice for mechanical engineering and supports a vast range of engineering education initiatives across schools and universities. It has over 75,000 members in 120 countries and represents mechanical engineers involved in a diversity of fields such as the automotive, rail, aerospace, medical, power and construction industries to name a few.
- Former F1 Technical Director, Ross Brawn, became Formula Student's Patron in July 2006.
- FS usually forms part of the students' academic studies, and culminates in a competition where teams from all over the world come together to race and compete against each other. Restrictions are placed on the car frame and engine so the students' knowledge, creativity, and imagination are tested. FS is backed by the Government-supported Learning Grid initiative which recognises the project's outstanding contribution to engineering education and the promotion of engineering careers to young people. For more information please visit [www.learninggrid.co.uk](http://www.learninggrid.co.uk)