



The Formula One Technology Challenge in Schools

Mercedes-Benz Middle East enters the challenge with sponsoring UAE's Safire Racing Team

Press Information

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Dubai, UAE – As part of its victorious history in the Motorsport arena and its commitment towards innovative education, Mercedes-Benz Middle East has chosen to support and sponsor the Safire Racing Team from the German School in Dubai for the Formula One Technology Challenge in Schools in its latest edition.

The Formula One Technology Challenge in Schools is the world's leading multi-disciplinary challenge for 9-19 year-old students, involving 22 countries. With acquiring the franchise in the UAE, Yas Marina circuit hosts an invitational national final of the competition for the second year in a row for school teams, scheduled to take place in Abu Dhabi

Among the participating teams the Mercedes-Benz backed Safire Racing team will be competing in the challenge, seeking to book one of the two places for who will represent the UAE at 2012 World Championship.

"Being part of the Formula One Technology Challenge for Schools this year will be a perfect platform for us to prove the vision of Mercedes-Benz in enhancing the innovation and providing support to the motorsports engineers of tomorrow," said Frank Bernthaler, Director, Sales & Marketing, Mercedes-Benz Cars, Daimler Middle East & Levant.

"Mercedes-Benz vehicles are not only known for its leading technology and stylish design, but this has also led to a key focus on the performance aspect. There is no better example than the AMG sports cars and Formula One race cars to prove the excellence of the three-pointed star brand across different sectors," Bernthaler added.

F1 in Schools challenges students to use software to design, build and race a miniature Formula 1™ car made from balsa wood and powered by a single compressed air cylinder. Working in teams of three to six, the students should also prepare a business plan, develop a marketing strategy and make a presentation to a panel of judges.

Using CAD (Computer Aided Design) technology, the Safire Racing team will design a virtual Formula 1™ car and build a dragster before analysing its efficiency in a virtual reality wind tunnel. The car will then be fabricated with the use of CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture) software before being tested in actual wind and smoke tunnels.

As stated by the Safire Racing Team about their invention entry in the competition, "There are a lot of factors influencing the acceleration and

deceleration of the car. Few however have tried to eliminate ground effects and as far as we know nobody has ever used jewel bearings. We think we can make a very fast car and this is what we are aiming at, with the support of Mercedes-Benz Middle East.”

The final part of the challenge is the race, with teams competing along a special 20-metre straight track. The cars must cover the distance as quickly as possible – the current record is just 1.02 seconds! Marks will be awarded for each component of the challenge, resulting in an overall grade for each team.

For more information, please contact:

Ali Kherallah
Press contact
ali.kherallah@daimler.com
Mob: +971 55 2671799

Thomas Conway-Gordon
Press contact
bbdo.conway-gordon@daimler.com
Mob: +971 50 9547854

Nick Langmead
Press contact
bbdo.langmead@daimler.com
Mob: +971 50 8847964

Further information about Mercedes-Benz is available online:
www.media.daimler.com