

## News Release

### **Budding F1 Stars to Compete in UK's Biggest Eco-Car Race**

#### IMechE Greenpower Season Begins with Goodwood Corporate Challenge

21 April 2009

The UK's biggest eco-car race kicks off this weekend at Goodwood Motor Circuit, with zero-emission wonders built by students – from scratch. Media are invited to film at the IMechE Greenpower Corporate Challenge, West Sussex, event on Sunday (26) April from 11am.

Budding Jenson Buttons from 15 schools across the country will converge with teams from firms such as Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and Prodrive to win the coveted test of endurance on battery power in the F24 event. Both visitors and competitors will also get the chance to see a model of the Bloodhound Super Sonic Car, the latest design hoping to break the land speed record by reaching 1000mph.

The Greenpower scheme – of which the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) is a lead partner – lets youngsters from primary right through to secondary schools build electric cars from scratch. There are two events taking place on Sunday: the Corporate Challenge and the Season Opener to kick start the IMechE Greenpower season of regional heats taking place around the country to culminate in the national finals in October.

Since its launch in 1999, Greenpower has been inspiring the next generation of engineers through its electric car races for schools programme. Although only secondary school pupils can enter on the day, the competition as a whole involves three different age group categories; these are: Goblin Formula series for primary schools, Formula 24 for secondary schools, Formula 24+ for teams aged 16-21 and still in education. IMechE Formula Student is the next step up from Greenpower and is the biggest student motorsport event in Europe. Its Patron is Ross Brawn, of Brawn GP.

The first Corporate Challenge took place in April 2008, and saw Bentley Motors and BBC's Blue Peter take part. Companies are encouraged to build and race their own car with employees as drivers and pit crew or to team up with a local school to help develop their car. Speaking ahead of the event, John Ling, IMechE's Head of Transport said: "The IMechE Greenpower scheme builds bridges between the workplace and schools to encourage engineers of the future. Most engineering companies offer apprenticeships or graduate placements, so Greenpower helps those young engineers to increase their experience."

Martyn Hollingsworth, Director of Vehicle Evaluation and Verification at Jaguar Land Rover, comments: "Whilst participating in the Greenpower project, our team of graduate engineers have used this opportunity to focus on many aspects of automotive design, particularly around sustainable engineering. Throughout the programme, they have been encouraged to consider key technical elements that are directly applicable to their daily roles and to use this as a great learning opportunity. As a result, I am confident that Greenpower is providing significant benefits to our graduate engineers as well as to Jaguar Land Rover's long term future."

### **Information**

- The IMechE Greenpower Season Opener starts from 11am and can be entered by any F24 teams. It is a 90 minute race.
- The IMechE Greenpower Corporate Challenge starts from 1pm with a prize giving at 5.30pm. It is a four hour race. Only students from schools that made the top 15 cars in the IMechE Greenpower finals last year can compete alongside teams from corporate companies.
- Admission is free for all visitors



**Pic Cap: Electric cars raced by F24 secondary school teams**

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

- Supporters of IMechE Greenpower are Ford Motor Company, University of Southampton, Fordingbridge plc, Bloodhound SSC, Shape the Future, Environment Agency (Solent and South Downs), Cornwall College, Passivent and One North East.
- Greenpower is an education partner with the Bloodhound project based on the fact that the problems and issues of designing either an electric or supersonic car are very much the same.
- For more information on this release or to film the event please contact the IMechE Press Office on 020 7304 6888 or email [media@imeche.org](mailto:media@imeche.org).
- The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) was established in 1847 and has some of the world's greatest engineers in its history books. It currently has around 80,000 members in 120 countries representing mechanical engineers involved in a diversity of fields such as the automotive, rail, aerospace, medical, power and construction industries to name a few. Visit [www.imeche.org](http://www.imeche.org) for more information.
- Greenpower is a company dedicated to promoting engineering and technology as careers to pupils throughout their school life, through an exciting hands-on project to design, build and race an electric racing car. For more information visit [www.greenpower.co.uk](http://www.greenpower.co.uk)