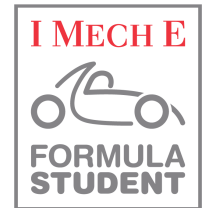


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Scuderia Ferrari Technical Director Chosen as Patron of Formula Student

For Immediate Release

27 June 2006

Eminent Scuderia Ferrari Technical Director, Ross Brawn, has just agreed to become the Patron of Formula Student (FS) – the biggest student motorsport event in Europe where some of the best engineering students across the world compete in a single-seater racing car that they have designed and built from scratch.

Brawn has endorsed his commitment to the event which will take place **Thursday, Friday and Saturday 6, 7 and 8 July** at Bruntingthorpe Proving Ground near Leicester in the UK. He said of the competition, run by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) “When I started in F1 30 years ago, we had to be able to turn our hand to everything from car design to driving the truck and there is no doubt that it benefits the members of any team to understand every aspect of how that team works. That is what I like about Formula Student. It combines first class hands-on practical application with students’ academic studies. It is an excellent training experience for young engineers and I am delighted to have been asked to be the Patron by the IMechE and I am sure this year’s event will be the most exciting yet. Perhaps this year we will see a UK team win on home soil for the first time!”

This year’s event promises to be bigger and better than ever with over 80 teams from all over the world (including more than 30 UK teams) taking part – each trying to win FS for the first time. Teams from all over Europe, the USA, India, Venezuela and Canada will be hoping to snatch the winner’s crown.

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Skills Minister Phil Hope, MP, praised the competition saying: “FS is an excellent event which actively encourages, inspires and supports young engineers from across the world to develop academic and vocational skills in engineering. I will be looking forward to seeing some of the best young engineering talent in the world at this event.” He will be joined on July 7 by local Bruntingthorpe MP for Blaby, Andrew Robothan.

The cars undergo a series of dynamic tests at Bruntingthorpe such as the Acceleration, Sprint, Skid-Pad and Endurance events but the students' knowledge, creativity, and imagination are also tested in the equally important Design, Presentation and Cost assessment elements of the competition where they must present their designs to a group of judges drawn from industry and motorsport.

Ends

NB: Ross Brawn was elected an Honorary Fellow of the IMechE in 2004.

Notes to editors

- For more information on the event, or to see if there is a university near you taking part, please contact the IMechE Press Office on 0207 304 6877/6935 or email media@imeche.org.uk . Further details of individual teams and can be found at 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.
- FS usually forms part of the students' academic studies, and culminates in a competition where teams from all over the world come together 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. www.learninggrid.co.uk

