The Team with the Winning Formula: Birmingham's 10th Race Car Unveiled

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[摘要] [51kb] 7 - Students from the University of Birmingham's School of Engineering are hoping that they have produced the winning formula this year when they launch their racing car on Friday 16th March. The car will be officially unveiled at 3pm at the University's Chancellor's Court by Professor Geoff Pots, Pro Vice Chancellor.
[关键词] racing car

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Students from the University of Birmingham's School of Engineering are hoping that they have produced the winning formula this year when they launch their racing car on Friday 16th March. The car will be officially unveiled at 3pm at the University's Chancellor's Court by Professor Geoff Pots, Pro Vice Chancellor.

This is the 10th Formula Student racing car to be designed, built, tested and raced by Birmingham's engineering students. The students are asked to assume they a manufacturer has commissioned them to produce a prototype car that will be evaluated and put into full production. The car must have high performance acceleration, braking and handling characteristics while other factors such as aesthetics and driver comfort must also be taken into account.

After weeks of hard work on the part of 20 mechanical and 5 electrical engineering students, this year's design aim was to create a car that is both lightweight and reliable within a timeframe that would allow the students time to factor in an extensive testing programme.

This year's car has been built with the driver in mind and to do this, the students initiated a 'new driver interaction focus group'. The steering is now more responsive and gives a better feel and the seat is removable and moulded to each driver. Top performance has been extracted from the engine by mapping it for maximum torque using a variable geometry intake, removing unused gears and modifying the gear ratios within the gear box.

Sam Jenkinson, the team's leader, says, 'As well as designing this year's car, we are also proud to be celebrating the 10th anniversary of Formula Student race car design and construction at Birmingham and the fact that we are now one of the oldest teams in the UK.

'We have introduced time management awareness to the team and this has meant that we found it easier to plan the project around busy periods within our degree such as coursework and exams.

Birmingham graduates who have taken part in this project have gone on to work for Ford, Jaguar, Red Bull Racing F1, Williams F1, Mercedes F1 and Rolls Royce. Professor David Hodkiss, Head of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, says, 'This is an excellent opportunity for students who want to follow a career in engineering. Not only do they benefit from the expertise Birmingham has to offer in the field of automotive engineering, but in learning how to design and build a race car, they are acquiring many other skills such as budgeting, team working, decision making and man

After the launch the car will be put through its paces at Silverstone where the team will take part in the Formula Student UK competition between 12th and 15th July and then at Formula Student Germany at Hockenheim between 8th and 12th August where the team will be joined by teams from other universities from around the globe.

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