

## **Something to be proud of....**

**Despite the challenges that the motorsport sector is currently facing, the UK industry should look to the future with a great deal to be positive about. Menard Competition Technologies' (MCT) Kevin Lee takes a look at why the UK should stand up and be proud.....**

The UK has established itself at the very heart of the world's motorsport technology sector. Indeed, UK companies are behind many of the most exciting advanced automotive projects and leading the way in areas such as chassis design and engine development.

As an example, last year the advanced automotive industry witnessed the beginning of a truly ambitious project combining British talents from science, engineering and mathematics in man's age-old quest for speed. The Bloodhound SSC land speed record project will attempt to break 1000mph, in a vehicle that is being constructed using UK systems and expertise. MCT has been very fortunate to be a partner in such a pioneering project, providing one of the key components in the vehicle's propulsion unit.

Lord Drayson, Minister of State for Science and Innovation, recently commented that projects such as Bloodhood are proving vitally important for the future of science and technology. It is endorsements and contributions from figures such as Lord Drayson that could help the motorsport industry secure further government investment for its engineering projects.

The industry's ability to be innovative and embrace new technology has always been one of its key strengths. In fact, it's these skills that have enabled it to adapt and evolve to maintain its standing at the cutting edge of the world's advanced automotive industry. We cannot, therefore, let an economic downturn dampen our courage and ingenuity and must continue to look for opportunities to exploit these assets.

-more-

-2-

MCT has been involved in some ground-breaking projects, including a recent venture which has seen MCT move away from the race track and become involved with reviving an iconic British name, Norton. This two-wheeled engine development project is proof of our industry's ability to transfer skills and think laterally.

The motorsport fraternity should not lose sight of its accomplishments and must celebrate its continued participation in advanced automotive projects. UK talents and expertise continue to be showcased to the world in advanced automotive projects like Bloodhood SSC. It is this involvement that we need to continue to shout about, if future opportunities for collaborations with organisations outside the motorsport industry are to continue.

-Ends-