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Football focus...

This weekend, August 30th – 31st, sees the first round of the all new Superleague Formula Championship, at Donington Park in the UK. The race will also see the debut of the series' powerplant, with all cars powered by a bespoke 4.2 litre, 750 horsepower V12 engine from Menard Competition Technologies (MCT).

Design of the engine took in excess of 3000 hours for MCT's team of engineers, with almost 25,000 miles of virtual miles of research and development then undertaken on the test bed. A comprehensive development programme, at circuits including Estoril, Vallelunga and Donington Park followed, with the engine receiving rave reviews from drivers. Tester Bruce Jouanny noted after a recent test:

"Data showed that we topped 300km/h at Estoril. The engine from MCT is now at full specification and is very powerful, with incredible torque. This is a real driver's car and the guys are going to really enjoy competing in Superleague Formula."

Kevin Lee, managing director at MCT, commented:

"It's been a long road designing and building a full complement of new V12s for the championship in such a short space of time but we're delighted to be here, raring to go, at Donington Park. It's testament to the expertise and team spirit of our people at MCT, Oxfordshire that we are at this point, with the evocative sound of 18 V12s heralding in the new series.

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He concluded: “We’re looking forward to being a part of the wider Superleague Formula team. To combine football with motor sport is an innovative, exciting concept – and when combined with the howl of our V12 engine, will make for a passion-fuelled spectacle...”

Ends. For more information or photography, please contact Richard Postins, Emma Begg, or Felicity Hodges at Prova on 01926 776900.

Notes to editors:

Menard Competition Technologies Limited (MCT) is based at Leafield Technical Centre, near Witney, Oxfordshire and offers bespoke solutions to the motorsport, advanced automotive and aerospace sectors. Its United States facility is based in Indianapolis.

Expertise includes total engine design, development and manufacturing capabilities, chassis build and development, gearbox dynamometer, as well as total project management and track support.

MCT’s customers include leading teams and manufacturers from NASCAR, international sports car series and a number of European and North American single seater championships.

MCT has in excess of thirty year’s experience at the pinnacle of the world motorsport industry. Its management team boasts championship success across F1, sportscars, touring cars, IRL, CART and NASCAR.