Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems & Automation

University of Patras
Mechanical Engineering & Aeronautics Dept.

Newsletter No.4

07/08/09'07

From 12th to 15 th of July, Formula Student 2007 Competition was held in Silverstone Circuit, in England. Our team was there to present and compete with our car, UoP 2.

Thursday, July 12th, Set up day:

Our team arrived at Silverstone Circuit for the first time. After unloading our car and the crate with the equipment and the tools we started setting up our pit and also got in the queue in order to pass the technical inspection.

After taking the queue line ticket we took the car back to the pit to start making some final adjustments and also continue with the pit set up.

In the same time our Class 3 team kept going with the setting up of their own pit, in order to exhibit their designs and solutions for UoP3.

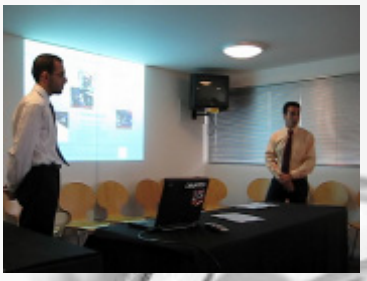
Finally, approximately 10 minutes before the technical inspection closure for evening, we were informed that we would be the team to be checked last. It was great luck, since we would have time to resolve any possible problems, until the time that the Circuit would close in the night.

Unfortunately there were some minor things that had to be changed: some edges to be smoothened, some gaps in the lower parts of the car which should be closed for safety reasons and some additional safety nuts. Therefore we took the decision to stay in our pit until 10 o'clock in the night in order to correct these things and pass the technical inspection in the morning of the next day.

Friday, July 13th, Static Events' day for Class 1:

After staying until late the day before, we arrived early n the morning in order to finish with the remaining things that had to be fixed in order to pass the scrutineering. In addition to these corrections, we also had to compete in the static events: Presentation - Marketing Event, Design Event, Cost Event.

The Presentation - Marketing Event went very well.



The cost event and design event were also satisfying. In both events judges were impressed about the knowledge of the team in manufacturing issues. Additionally their comments were very carefully recorder and will be taken into consideration for the future cars of the team.

Finally at 16 o'clock we got in the technical inspection area and gained our much desired first "sticker".

After that we went straight away to fill our fuel tank and then pass the tilt test, the test for car rollover and leaks.

The test was passed with the first attempt!! The second day however wasn't still over for us. We decided to stay until 10 o'clock so as to set up the car as much as possible, in order to be competitive.

Saturday, July 14th, First Dynamic Events' Day:

Once again we arrived in early morning. However we run into a severe problem: the engine, while starting normally, under certain circumstances was going off.

At the same time the dynamic events had started, but in order to compete we had first to pass the two remaining tests: noise and brake.

The time kept passing and the engine kept denying to work properly. Finally at 17:00 a first engine map that worked properly made our car's engine to fire up and keep working.

We finally made it to pass ALL the tests successfully, however we didn't make it to compete in the dynamic events of the first day.

Our target at the time was to stay one more night until late so that we would try to make our car capable of competing in the endurance event that would take place in the next day.

Sunday, July 15th, Second Dynamic Events' Day:

Our early arrival wasn't something new for the final day as well. We had to "fight with time" and our bad luck in order to manage to enter in the endurance event.

However we didn't manage to make the engine run smoothly.

Until 17 o'clock where the endurance ended we kept trying to make it run, even just to make some laps in the track, but even with the help from the guys from Tokai University, the engine map wasn't good enough.

The Formula Student 2007 competition was over, however no one felt full. We all wanted to see our car competing dynamically, however time issues led to lack of efficiency.

The final result was the 50th place in overall, since we didn't receive any points for the dynamic events. However our Class 3 participation left us more than satisfied, gaining the 3rd place in overall and encouraging us this way to continue our work twice harder so as to make our cars not just running, but reliable, fast and therefore competitive as well, in our future Formula Student participations.

We end this newsletter with some commemorative pictures…

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