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[Latest News \(All\)](#)

[From Greece](#)

[From Cyprus](#)

[From Europe](#)

[From Balkans](#)

[From Turkey](#)

[From USA](#)

[Announcements](#)

[World Press](#)

[News Archives](#)

Web Sites

[Hosted](#)

[Mirrored](#)

[Interesting Nodes](#)

Documents

[Special Topics](#)

[Treaties, Conventions](#)

[Constitutions](#)

[U.S. Agencies](#)

[Cyprus Problem](#)

[Other](#)

Services

[Personal NewsPaper](#)

[Greek Fonts](#)

[Tools](#)

[F.A.Q.](#)

Athens News Agency: Daily News Bulletin in English, 03-07-21

[Athens News Agency: Daily News Bulletin in English Directory](#) - [Previous Article](#) - [Next Article](#)

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July,21 2003

CONTENTS

- [\[01\]](#) Greece terms Erdogan's statements on Cyprus 'provocative'
- [\[02\]](#) Greek deputy FM Magriotis certain of developments for Cyprus solution ahead
- [\[03\]](#) Leading political figures comment on proposed changes to electoral law
- [\[04\]](#) Opinion poll: Elections should be held in October, respondents say
- [\[05\]](#) Ecumenical patriarch ends his visit to the island of Limnos
- [\[06\]](#) Development minister praises initiative for environment-friendly economic growth
- [\[07\]](#) Patras university team wins 'Formula Student' competition
- [\[08\]](#) Cretan vendetta claims Ukrainian woman as 'collateral damage'
- [\[09\]](#) Australia wins world junior basketball championship in Thessaloniki
- [\[10\]](#) Memorials and gatherings mark invasion anniversary
- [\[11\]](#) Lefka passage considered unsafe by UNFICYP

[07] Patras university team wins 'Formula Student' competition

Athens 21/7/2003

A racing-car design developed by a team of students from the Patras University mechanical and aircraft engineering department won first place in the Formula Student exhibition held each year in Leicester, Britain.

Contestants have to design and build a one-seated amateur racing car simulating real market conditions. They are asked to work as though they have been commissioned to develop an original design by a car manufacturer for testing with a view to production.

The aim is to build an amateur racing car destined for mass production, with high performance acceleration, brakes and driving behavior that is also low-cost, easy to maintain and reliable and attractive to buyers due to its design features and easily available spare parts. The assumption is that the manufacturer will produce up to 1,000 units a year at a cost of less than 21,000 euros per car.

The Greek design team was set up in 2000 under the supervision of postgraduate research student Panagiotis Stavropoulos, gaining fourth place in its first attempt in 2002.

This year, the Greek design also won the first prize for design innovations from the British Institute of Mechanical Engineers.