



Press release

THE XVI EDITION OF THE FORMULA SAE ITALY MOTORSPORT COMPETITION, WHICH IS UNDERWAY IN VARANO DE' MELEGARI AFTER A YEAR'S BREAK, OFFICIALLY OPENED AMID ENTHUSIASM AND MOTORING PASSION ON THE PART OF THE 37 PARTICIPATING TEAMS

Varano de' Melegari, 12th October 2021 - The 16th edition of **Formula SAE Italy**, the international technical-sporting competition open to engineering students from universities all over the world, organised by ANFIA, officially opened yesterday with the opening ceremony at 7.30 p.m. on the "R. Paletti" circuit in Varano de' Melegari (Parma).

More than 300 students from 11 countries representing 37 university teams - 36 European (17 Italian, from 14 different universities) and one non-European (USA) - were welcomed by **Raffaele Fregonese, Director of Formula SAE Italy**. Mr Fregonese opened the proceedings and then handed over to **Marco Stella, Vice President of ANFIA**.

"I would like to thank all the sponsors and partners for their renewed support at this year's event" - began Marco Stella. A key element of Formula SAE is technological innovation, which involves both the universities, and the companies present here. The automotive industry is undergoing several transformations such as electrification, digitalisation, artificial intelligence - and you, the students of today, are the future of this sector. During this enormous transformation process, the network of universities is as important as the network of research and development centres. My advice is to be equipped for the professions of the future while maintaining the enthusiasm and passion that brought you here today".

Francesco Ricciardi, representing ANFIA's Car Design & Engineering Group, then presented the ANFIA Next Mobility Hackathon 2022 event to the teams. *"While the 2021 edition was aimed at Italian students, the 2022 hackathon will be open to young adults from all over the world" - Ricciardi said. The objective of the competition is to collect, share and evaluate innovative ideas and projects aimed at developing new ways of understanding means of transportation, from the point of view of design, in the sense of a user experience, and from a technological point of view. Through the hackathon, we will explore how new technologies can play an essential role in building new solutions for tomorrow's mobility challenges. The aim is to create a more efficient, environmentally friendly and safe transportation system"*.

Following this, **Maurizio Reggiani, Chief Technical Officer of Automobili Lamborghini, the event's main sponsor**, said: *"I remember when I started judging the competition in 2006. Today, I see a lot of students who have made their way into the automotive world. For our company, this is a scouting activity that allows us to evaluate the youngsters. We look at their results in the race and their ability to be convincing about their projects, proving that their work is the best. I think what ANFIA has put in place with Formula SAE is unique. The competition is the first*

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contact with the world of work where it is not enough to be just good engineers. You need to drive the project from concept to persuading someone to invest. Those who participate can measure themselves against various universities from all over the world and experiment with innovative technologies such as electrification, which is already present in such competitions; this is why Automobili Lamborghini wants to be involved. We are convinced that this is one of the best opportunities to select the next generation of engineers who will work in our company”.

Lastly, **Giuseppe Restiani, mayor of Varano de' Melegari**, the municipality that has always given its patronage to the event, welcomed the children warmly.

On Sunday 10th October and Monday 11th, scrutineering of the cars competing in classes 1C (combustion), 1E (electric) and 1D (driverless) took place in the paddock. This morning saw the start of the dynamic tests on the track - Acceleration and Skidpad - which will continue in the afternoon and tomorrow, with Autocross, Endurance and Trackdrive for the driverless cars.

Further information is available on the event website (<https://www.formula-ata.it/>), where you can find the complete programme (<https://www.formula-ata.it/official-schedule/>), the event handbook (<https://www.formula-ata.it/handbook-2021/>) and all the details of the event.

Social channels of Formula SAE Italy:



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ANFIA - Italian Association of the Automotive Industry

Born in March 1912, over these one hundred years, ANFIA mission has always been to represent the interests of its associate members and ensure effective communication between the Italian motor vehicle industries on the one hand, and the Public Administration and Italian political bodies on the other, with regard to all technical, economic, fiscal, legal, statistical and quality-related issues referred to the automotive sector.

The Association is structured in three product-based Groups, each one chaired by a President.

Components: motor vehicle parts and components manufacturers; Car Coachbuilders and Designers: companies working in the sector of design, engineering and style of motor vehicles and/or parts and components for the automotive sector; Motor vehicles: motor vehicles manufacturers in general, including trucks, trailers, camper vans, special means of transport.

The Automotive Production Chain in Italy

5,546 companies

278,000 employees (direct and indirect), more than 7% of the employees in the Italian manufacturing sector
106.1 billion Euros of turnover, which means 11% of the Italian manufacturing sector turnover and of 6.2% of the Italian GDP
76.3 billion Euros of tax levy of motorization

Formula SAE Italy

Formula SAE was established in 1981 on the initiative of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and requires the participating students to design and build a prototype single-seater racing car destined for eventual sale. They must follow specific technical and financial constraints as if a company in the automotive sector commissioned it for a non-professional user. During the event, the teams of students take part in static tests - Design, Business Presentations and Cost Events - and dynamic tests on the track (Acceleration, Skid Pad, Autocross, Endurance; for Class 1D, the Endurance has been replaced by the Trackdrive).

The event aims to focus not on the competition itself, but the skills acquired by the young people in terms of engineering knowledge, commitment, organisation and adherence to deadlines, design coordination and product presentation. Thus, the competition is an educational event in which young people can learn teamwork dynamics, with strict rules and deadlines that must be respected and be put to the test in the actual construction and design phases of a prototype and with all the difficulties that this entails. Formula SAE arrived in Italy in 2005, organized by ATA (Associazione Tecnica dell'Autoveicolo). After 12 editions, since 2017, with the acquisition of ATA by ANFIA, the organization of the event passed to ANFIA, which organized three editions at "R. Paletti" Racing Track of Varano de' Melegari (Parma).

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