



Press release

**THE XVIII EDITION OF FORMULA SAE ITALY OFFICIALLY OPENED**

**Marco Stella, President of the ANFIA Components Group and ANFIA Vice-President, and Matteo Cosmi, CEO of Industrie Saleri Italo, the event's main sponsor, spoke at the opening ceremony last night**

*Varano de' Melegari, 13th of July 2023* - The 18th edition of **Formula SAE Italy**, an international technical and sporting competition open to engineering students from universities all over the world and organised by ANFIA, was officially launched yesterday with the opening ceremony at 9 pm at the 'R. Paletti' circuit in Varano de' Melegari (Parma).

**Raffaele Fregonese, Director of Formula SAE Italy**, welcomed around 1,600 students from 20 countries, representing 56 university teams, including 47 from the European Union (22 Italians from 17 different universities) and 9 from outside the EU, and then gave the floor to **Marco Stella, President of the ANFIA Components Group and Vice President of ANFIA**.

*"It's nice to see young, passionate people investing in their future while having fun, in line with the educational spirit of the event - began Marco Stella.*

*ANFIA promotes educational initiatives such as this to provide students with practical tools to complement their education and encourage contact between the academic and business worlds.*

*The automotive industry is undergoing significant changes, with trends such as electrification, digitalisation, and artificial intelligence driving the transformation. To stay competitive, the sector needs to operate systematically. At ANFIA, we support a sustainable mobility approach that is neutral to technology and open to all low-carbon energy sources. It is also essential to prioritise the retraining and upskilling of workers in the production chain to update their skills and prepare them for new challenges. Introducing new courses that cater to the sector's unique needs is crucial in this time of enormous change. The network of universities is as vital as that of research and development centres.*

*To young individuals present here, my advice is to prepare for future jobs. For instance, the battery industry needs more research and design specialists. However, it is critical to remember the importance of man and his passions, such as the Formula SAE Italy students' enthusiasm, and keeping an open mind when making technological choices".*

**National Association of the Automotive Industry**



Following this, Matteo Cosmi, CEO of Industrie Saleri Italo, main sponsor of the event, addressed the students: *"You hold the key to the present and future of the automotive industry. With your knowledge, intuition and passion, we will work together to achieve total sustainability - encompassing environmental, social, and economic factors - through technological evolution.*

*Always give your best effort and never hold back. Embrace your mistakes, and don't be afraid of them. It is through these mistakes that you can innovate and develop. Your unique perspective and curiosity are essential to us, so do not let the system's noise hold you back. Keep that thought to the side, and don't let it influence you. Stay focused on your goals. We have a duty to assist you when you stumble and learn from your errors. Saleri has been involved in this event for many years, not just in Italy. Our commitment is to keep participating as long as we have the energy to do so. You are the key to our future success".*

Finally, Giuseppe Restiani, Mayor of Varano de' Melegari, a town which, as always, is the event's patron along with the Province of Parma and the Emilia Romagna Region, gave a warm welcome to the young people.

Scrutineering of the cars in the 1C (internal combustion), 1E (electric) and 1D (driverless) classes began in the paddock yesterday and will continue tomorrow. At 10.00 today, the business presentation sessions began, which will finish later in the day for the 1D class. In contrast, tomorrow's sessions will continue for the 1C and 1E classes, with the finals taking place in the event's meeting tent in the late afternoon. Also, today, the Cost event will begin at 14.30 and continue tomorrow, while the Design event will occur throughout the day. In both events, the judges will directly confront the teams with the designs and cars submitted in their respective pits.

We remind you that the event is open daily to the general public. Paddock access tickets can be purchased both online ([www.ciaotickets.com/it/biglietti/formula-sae-italy-varano](http://www.ciaotickets.com/it/biglietti/formula-sae-italy-varano)) and at the track during Formula SAE Italy, at the registration area, according to the prices indicated in the following link: <https://www.formula-ata.it/tickets-visitor/>

On Friday 14th, Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th July you can take part in a guided tour in Italian or English.

All further information is available on the initiative's website (<https://www.formula-ata.it/>), where you will also find the complete programme (<https://www.formula-ata.it/official-schedule/>), the list of participants (<https://www.formula-ata.it/registered-teams/>) and all event details.

## National Association of the Automotive Industry



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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 Design & Engineering*: 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.

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### The Automotive Production Chain in Italy

5,528 companies

273,600 employees (direct and indirect), the 7,3% of the employees in the Italian manufacturing sector

86.2 billion Euros of turnover, which means 9,9% of the Italian manufacturing sector turnover and of 5.2% 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 4 editions at "R. Paletti" Racing Track of Varano de' Melegari (Parma).

<https://www.formula-ata.it/>

## National Association of the Automotive Industry

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