



Press release

XIX EDITION OF FORMULA SAE ITALY KICKS OFF

At yesterday evening's opening ceremony, the flag was raised by Marco Stella - President of the ANFIA Components Group and Vice President of ANFIA, and Pierpaolo Biffali - Head of Powertrain Product Engineering at Iveco Group, main sponsor of the event

Varano de' Melegari, 5 September 2024 - The 19th edition of **Formula SAE Italy**, the international engineering competition for university students coming from across the globe, officially began last night, with a brilliant opening ceremony at the "R. Paletti" circuit in Varano de' Melegari, Parma.

This year's event welcomes approximately 1,600 students representing 63 university teams from 17 countries. 50 teams come from the EU (21 teams from 18 Italian universities) and 13 from non-EU countries.

Raffaele Fregonese, Director of Formula SAE Italy, opened the evening's proceedings, followed by a speech from **Marco Stella, President of the ANFIA Components Group and Vice President of ANFIA**. In his remarks, Stella emphasised the educational essence of the event:

"Formula SAE Italy is first and foremost a learning experience. Today marks the start of a journey that will see you grow, regardless of your final ranking on Sunday. We are thrilled to offer future engineers the opportunity to meet professionals from the automotive and motorsport sectors, and the chance to supplement your education, besides fostering stronger ties between universities and the automotive industry. Technological innovation is at the heart of this event and the broader automotive world. Young engineers like you are the future of this field, especially as we navigate the rapid transformation of mobility and the industry's competitive landscape. The collaboration between universities and research centres is crucial in shaping the future."

Mr. Stella also encouraged the students to prepare for emerging careers, particularly highlighting the increasing demand for engineers specialised in the battery sector.

Following Marco Stella's speech, **Pierpaolo Biffali, Head of Powertrain Product Engineering at Iveco Group, the event's main sponsor**, presented the Group's key figures to the students, drawing a comparison between motorsport and the industrial vehicle sectors, both sharing different shades of the same values: indeed, the performance of racing cars finds a counterpart

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in productivity for the truck world, endurance in product durability, and cost efficiency in TCO (Total Cost of Ownership).

The **Mayor of Varano de' Melegari, Giuseppe Restiani**, warmly welcomed the participants, reaffirming the municipality's support for the event, alongside the Province of Parma and the Emilia Romagna Region.

Between yesterday and today, scrutineering of the competing cars began in the paddock for the 1CV (combustion), 1EV (electric) and 1DV (driverless) classes, which will continue tomorrow.

Today, at 10 a.m., the Business presentation event's sessions opened, and will conclude by this evening for Class 1DV, while Classes 1CV's and 1EV's sessions will continue tomorrow, with the respective Finals taking place in the meeting tent in the late afternoon. The Cost event is also scheduled to begin today at 2:30 p.m., and will continue tomorrow, while the Design event will take place tomorrow, for the entire day. For both events, the juries will face off directly with the teams on their submitted designs and prototypes in their respective pits.

We remind you that the event is open daily to the general public. Paddock access tickets can be both purchased online (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 Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th September, 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 the details of the event.

For more information: ANFIA Press Office

Miriam Gangi - m.gangi@anfia.it

Ph. +39 011 5546502

Mob. +39 338 7303167

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Sedi: 10128 Torino - Corso Galileo Ferraris, 61 - Telefono +39 011 5546511 - E-mail: anfia@anfia.it -
00144 Roma - Viale Pasteur, 10 - Telefono +39 06 54221493 (4) - E-mail: anfia.roma@anfia.it
www.anfia.it



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.

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The Automotive Production Chain in Italy

5,439 companies

272,000 employees (direct and indirect), the 7.3% of the employees in the Italian manufacturing sector

100.6 billion Euros of turnover, which means 11.5% of the Italian manufacturing sector turnover and of 5.6% 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/>

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00144 Roma - Viale Pasteur, 10 - Telefono +39 06 54221493 (4) - E-mail: anfia.roma@anfia.it
www.anfia.it



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