



Press release

FORMULA SAE ITALY: THE RACE OF TALENT AND TECHNOLOGY RESTARTS

During yesterday evening's opening ceremony, speeches were delivered by Marco Stella, President of the ANFIA Components Group and Vice President of ANFIA, and Ettore Camarda, Assistant General Manager of MAGNA PT, the main sponsor of the event.

Varano de' Melegari, 11th September 2025 - The 20th edition of **Formula SAE Italy**, the international technical-sports competition organised by ANFIA, officially kicked off with an opening ceremony at 9 PM yesterday at the "R. Paletti" Autodrome in Varano de' Melegari (Parma).

Raffaele Fregonese, the Director of Formula SAE Italy, opened the proceedings by welcoming approximately 1,600 students from 14 countries, representing 49 university teams. Among these teams, 40 are from the European Union, including 21 from Italy and 17 different universities, while 9 teams come from outside the EU. Following his remarks, **Marco Stella, President of the ANFIA Components Group and Vice President of ANFIA**, also addressed the participants.

"For the students gathered here, this first day marks the beginning of a unique experience in the heart of Motor Valley. By the end of the event, regardless of their rankings, each participant will have experienced personal growth. For twenty years, this has been the actual value of participating in Formula SAE Italy, an initiative that ANFIA strongly supports" - said Marco Stella while addressing the students.

The future of the automotive industry is not just on the horizon; it is unfolding right now and remains wide open. Companies throughout the supply chain are developing new strategies to direct investments, concentrating on innovative technologies. Their goal is to integrate environmental sustainability, digitalisation, and innovative mobility models.

This future especially belongs to young aspiring engineers. They have the opportunity to create new business models and bring innovative ideas to life, identifying valuable technological solutions among a vast array of options, thereby enhancing their skills and shaping their own futures.

Formula SAE Italy was established to nurture new talents, providing opportunities for dialogue with experts in the automotive and motoring sectors, and emphasising the potential of a generation poised to be at the forefront of the ongoing transformation".

Italian Association of the Automotive Industry



Following this, **Ettore Camarda**, the Assistant General Manager of MAGNA PT, the event's main sponsor, emphasised that young people are the true driving force behind the future of mobility. He stressed the importance of nurturing their passion within companies by equipping them with solid skills, promoting precision in every project, and fostering strategic partnerships that transform ideas into tangible innovations.

Cristina Gabelli, the mayor of Varano de' Melegari, the host municipality, along with the Province of Parma and the Emilia Romagna Region, warmly welcomed the young attendees.

Lastly, **Giampaolo Dallara**, founder and president of the Dallara Group, extended his personal welcome to the youngsters, wishing them an excellent event and reminding them that the future rests in their hands.

The opening ceremony also provided an opportunity to award the **BlueStreamline** team from **Transilvania University in Braşov**, winners of the ANFIA contest for creating the logo for the 20th anniversary of Formula SAE Italy. The students' graphic designs were evaluated by a jury made up of members from the ANFIA Car Design and Engineering Group Steering Committee.

Between yesterday and today, scrutineering of the cars for the 1CV (combustion), 1EV (electric), and 1DV (driverless) classes began in the paddock and will continue tomorrow. Today at 10:00 AM, the Business Presentation event sessions opened and will conclude later in the day for Class 1DV. Tomorrow, these sessions will continue for Classes 1CV and 1EV, with the finals taking place in the late afternoon at the meeting tent.

Additionally, the Cost event is scheduled to start at 2:30 PM today and will continue tomorrow. The Design event will take place entirely today. For both events, the juries will meet directly with the teams in their respective pits to discuss the projects and prototypes presented.

As a reminder, the event is open to the public for all five days. Tickets for access to the paddock can be purchased online at www.ciaotickets.com/it/formula-sae or directly at the circuit during Formula SAE Italy at the Registration Area, according to the rates specified at www.formula-ata.it/tickets-visitor/.

There are also options for **guided tours in Italian or English** available on Saturday, 13th September, and Sunday, 14th September. For further information, visit the event's official website at www.formula-ata.it/, where you can find the complete program at www.formula-ata.it/official-schedule/, the list of participants at www.formula-ata.it/registered-teams/, and all event details.

Italian Association of the Automotive Industry



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ANFIA - Italian Association of the Automotive Industry

Founded in 1912, its aim for over 100 years has been to represent the interests of its members vis-à-vis public and private, national and international institutions and to study and resolve technical, economic, fiscal, legislative, statistical and quality issues in the automotive sector.

The Association is structured into 3 product groups, each coordinated by a President.

Components: includes manufacturers of motor vehicle parts and components; *Car Design & Engineering:* includes companies active in the design, engineering, styling and design of motor vehicles and/or parts and components for the motor vehicle sector; *Manufacturers:* includes manufacturers of motor vehicles in general - including trucks, trailers, camper vans, special vehicles and/or vehicles dedicated to specific uses - or specific fittings and equipment mounted on motor vehicles.

www.anfia.it

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The automotive production chain in Italy

5,451 enterprises

272,000 employees (direct and indirect), 7.1% of those employed in the Italian manufacturing sector

113.3 billion Euro in turnover, equivalent to 9% of manufacturing turnover in Italy and 5.8% of Italian GDP

71 billion euro tax levy on motorisation

Formula SAE Italy

Formula SAE was founded in 1981 by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). It is a university competition aimed at engineering students worldwide, challenging them to design and construct prototype single-seater competition cars, either combustion or electric, including self-driving models. The goal is to create vehicles intended for eventual commercialisation, adhering to specific technical and economic constraints, as if commissioned by an automotive company for a non-professional user.

During the event, student teams participate in two categories of tests: static and dynamic. Static tests include the Design Event, Business Presentation Event, and Cost Event, while dynamic tests consist of Acceleration, Skid Pad, Autocross, and Endurance. In the 'Driverless' participation class, the Endurance event is replaced by Trackdrive.

This educational event focuses on developing students' skills by providing them with a training experience that emphasises teamwork, adherence to regulations, and meeting deadlines. Participants are tested throughout the design and construction phases of their prototypes, facing various challenges along the way.

In Italy, Formula SAE made its debut in 2005, organised by the Associazione Tecnica dell'Autoveicolo (ATA). After 12 editions, the organisation of the event transitioned to ANFIA in 2017, following ATA's takeover by ANFIA. Since then, ANFIA has organised seven editions at the 'R. Paletti' Autodrome in Varano de' Melegari (Parma).

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

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