



Press release

**21ST EDITION OF FORMULA SAE ITALY: SEPTEMBER 2-6, 2026
AT THE "R. PALETTI" CIRCUIT IN VARANO DE' MELEGARI**

**The educational event dedicated
to worldwide engineering students - and others - is back.**

Focus: the development of technical and managerial skills and soft skills.

**2026 season features: increase in participation slots for the driverless class (from 12 to 15),
for class 3 (from 5 to 8) and for the double class (from 4 to 5 slots for the electric +
driverless class and from 4 to 5 slots for the combustion engine + driverless class)
and a new Business Presentation event format,
with a new prize for the overall best team**

Turin, December 2, 2025 - The new dates for the 2026 edition of [Formula SAE Italy](#), the educational event that involves engineering students from universities around the world in an international technical-sporting challenge, now in its 21st edition, have been officially announced.

The event - a highly educational experience for the aspiring engineers of tomorrow, who are also tested on their organizational and time management skills, teamwork, and detailed illustration of the team's technical choices and the project as a whole, including from the point of view of the business plan and economic sustainability - will take place **from September 2 to 6, 2026, at the "R. Paletti" racetrack in Varano de' Melegari (Parma)**, who represent an partner in the initiative together with SAE International.

The main changes in the 2026 edition: further increase in participation slots for teams registered in 1DV class (driverless cars) and class 3 (participation with the car design only, without a prototype) and for participation in the double class 1EV+1DV (electric and driverless) and 1CV+1DV (combustion engine and driverless), in line with current technological trends in the worldwide automotive industry. In terms of static events, starting from this year, the Business Presentation Event will feature a single final for all classes, including class 3. Five teams will compete in this final and, while the winners of each category will still be announced, the overall best team will also be awarded a prize. Teams participating in double class, on the other hand, can decide whether to make a single Business Plan, by choosing which class to compete in, or participate in the BPE with two different BP, with the possibility of reaching the final in two different categories.

The 65 participation slots will therefore be divided as follows: 30 for class 1EV; 12 for class 1CV (combustion cars); 15 for class 1DV - which will include both fully autonomous cars and cars competing in the double class (a total of 10 slots for the latter, 5 in 1EV+1DV and 5 in 1CV+1DV) - and 8 for Class 3.

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Furthermore, as in the last two editions, **class 1CV will also include non-plug-in hybrid cars** (in the sense of low-voltage hybrid cars).

The updated official Rules will be published online in the coming weeks.

Team registration for the 2026 edition will open, as usual, with the **early registration** - reserved for the top three finishers in the 1CV class (combustion cars), 1EV (electric cars), and 1DV (autonomous cars) classes and the top two finishers in Class 3 of the 2025 edition, as well as two non-European teams. Registration will open **on Tuesday, February 3, at 10:00 a.m. and close on Wednesday, February 4, at 1:00 p.m.** The **main registration** window will run from **Friday, February 6 at 10:00 a.m., to 1:00 p.m. of Thursday, April 30**, with the classic "click race" on the first day, which will see teams competing to clinch the participation slots available.

The last edition, in September 2025, saw the participation of approximately **1,600 students** divided into **49 teams** from **14 countries**, including **40 European teams (21 Italian teams** from 17 different universities) and **9 non-European teams**.

Finally, the 2026 **sponsorship campaign** will open soon. The event owes much of its success to the **support of automotive and motorsport companies—26 sponsors, 6 technical partners, and 2 media partners contributed to the 2025 edition—**along with the backing of the **Emilia-Romagna Region, the Municipality of Varano de' Melegari, and the Province of Parma**. A wide range of sponsorship packages will be available, offering companies valuable opportunities for recruitment and dialogue with universities, as well as fostering meaningful networking among participating businesses.

For all FSAE Italy updates and organizational details: www.formula-ata.it/

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ANFIA - National Association of the Automotive Industry

Founded in 1912, for over 100 years its goal has been to represent the interests of its members in relation to 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 three product groups, each coordinated by a President.

Components: includes manufacturers of automotive parts and components; *Car Design & Engineering:* includes companies operating in the field of design, engineering, styling, and design of motor vehicles and/or parts and components for the automotive sector; *Motor Vehicle Manufacturers:* includes manufacturers of motor vehicles in general – including trucks, trailers, campers, special vehicles, and/or vehicles dedicated to specific uses – or specific fittings and equipment mounted on motor vehicles.

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The automotive production chain in Italy

5,451 companies

273,000 employees (direct and indirect), 7.3% of those employed in the Italian manufacturing sector

€113.3 billion in turnover, equal to 9% of manufacturing turnover in Italy and 5.8% of Italian GDP

€71 billion in tax revenue from motor vehicles

Formula SAE Italy

Formula SAE was founded in 1981 on the initiative of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). It is a university competition dedicated to engineering faculties around the world, in which participating students compete in the design and construction of single-seater prototype racing cars, either combustion or electric, including self-driving cars, intended for possible commercialization, following specific technical and economic constraints, as if they were commissioned by an automotive company for a non-professional user. During the event, student teams face static tests—Design Event, Business Presentation Event, and Cost Event—and dynamic tests on the track (Acceleration, Skid Pad, Autocross, Endurance; for the "Driverless" participation class, Endurance is replaced by the Trackdrive test).

The aim of this educational event is to focus on the students' skills, giving them a formative experience in which they learn the dynamics of teamwork, with precise rules and deadlines to be met, and putting them to the test in the construction and design phases of the prototype, with all the difficulties that this entails.

Formula SAE made its debut in Italy in 2005, organized by ATA (Associazione Tecnica dell'Autoveicolo, or Automotive Technical Association). After 12 editions, starting in 2017, with the acquisition of ATA by ANFIA, the role of organizer of the event passed to ANFIA, which has organized eight editions at the "R. Paletti" Autodrome in Varano de' Melegari (Parma).

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

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