

Maltese safety drive

State-of-the-art motorsport complex to promote new driving talent and driver skills

Isn't the recently-released Ferrari F1 concept stunning –surely this is what a 2015 F1 car should look like? Beautiful, breathtaking, a speed icon that shouts 'racing car'. Back to reality and the first (rather dull) Grand Prix of 2015 is over – and further indicates that the whole energy recovery philosophy as applied to F1 is failing. Miserably.

A new motorsport facility is being proposed in Malta, the first permanent facility of its kind in the country, which will be designed to bring on young driving talent as well as improving road safety skills in a bid to reduce road accidents and fatalities.

The facility, which is still in concept stage, is to be built to a similar model as Vellelunga in Italy, that is to T1 (Formula 1 testing) and Grade 2 (for series up to GP2). It would be able to host events, with closed circuit high definition television cameras around the complex and significant spectator facilities. Currently there are no motor sport racing circuits that reach international standards and safety measures required to groom existing and new talent.

There would be more than one circuit within the facility, including a track designated for cars and motorcycles, and another for go karts, Moni Moto, Motards and Scooters that would be constructed in accordance with FIA, CIK FIA and FIM specifications and designed

to accommodate motorsport events up to Formula 3 level.

One of the project's main aims is to develop an international multi-purpose educational motor sport complex, which can host a wide variety of events, from amateur and recreational level to national as well as international level motor sport events. The operation of the circuit is proposed to be year-round, with racing in the summer months, and testing and car launches in the winter to help to generate income for the circuit.

Better driving skills

However, the primary aim for the facility will be to improve road safety in line with the calls from UNESCO and the FIA (Action for Road Safety). The facility would aim to educate and train drivers to improve their driving skills and to control their vehicles when faced with emergencies initially away from busy traffic.

The state-of-the-art complex will have a specific area dedicated exclusively for road safety with a driving academy offering courses for defensive driving and driving improvement technique courses to individuals, government personnel, civil protection, police and security forces in collaboration with the relevant government agencies.

A motoring and transport museum, exhibition and conference facilities, club

member facilities, race engineering facilities and function facilities should also be considered to be feasible. The Educational Motorsport Complex would itself be unique, introducing a range of educational and interactive projects as part of the service to the community, including engineering and safety workshops for children, high-tech courses in mechanical engineering, a collaboration with the University and MCAST in areas of engineering, sports management, event and tourism and vocational training.

Land has been earmarked for the facility, with 110 hectares deemed appropriate for the full facility, which would include a medium sized hotel of not less than three stars, including a restaurant, a café and banqueting all. On the basis of what has happened in similar facilities outside Malta, it is estimated that the entire complex will create a significant number of jobs in addition to more jobs in other businesses as a flow-on effect.

No feasibility or projection studies have yet been carried out by the committee in charge of presenting the plan, but it is expected that such a project would contribute to the growth for the local economy and could generate millions of euros into the Maltese economy. ♦



The proposed facility would be built to international standards. It would also include a museum, exhibition facilities, an engineering hub and a separate educational complex



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Privatisation Unit (PU) on behalf of the Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sport, is issuing an EOI regarding a Concession for the Design, Build and Operation of Motor Recreation & Education Park.

Interested parties are invited to communicate with the PU, at the email address shown below, expressing their interest in the EOI. Following this, the PU will forward a process letter to explain the procedure to be followed for the collection of the EOI document and submission of the Proposal.

The Chairman
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