

Student team from Leuven battles for prizes with new electric race car

Wednesday the 29 of May, Formula Electric Belgium revealed its newest electric race car, the *Umicore Eclipse*. The team of students from the KU Leuven and Thomas More University designed and build this vehicle by themselves during the academic year. The race car is a remarkable piece of innovative technology. It accelerates from 0 to 100km/hr in just 2,6 seconds, faster than the newest generation of Formula E-cars.

Since the beginning of September, the students from Formula Electric Belgium are out and about with the design and the production of their newest electric race car. The more than 4000 parts are designed by the students themselves, from the chassis to the battery package. This impressive engineering- and production work results in the *Umicore Eclipse*, a race car weighing only 200 kilograms. The vehicle, with a power of 201hp, has a top speed of 117km/hr and accelerates from 0 to 100km/hr in a dazzling 2,6 seconds. During the summer the Belgian students will compete against 250 other teams from all over the globe in several international Formula Student competitions.

Top of the ranking

“The team is very ambitious this year”, says *team captain* Willem T’Hooft, engineering student. “Last year, the Czech jury awarded our car as the most innovative. With this gold medal, we proved that we are in the top of the ranking. With the *Umicore Eclipse* we hope to improve this result by trying to capture a place on the podium in multiple disciplines. Because of that we focussed even more on performance and reliability.” The students will defend the Belgian tricolour at competitions in the Netherlands, Italy and Czech Republic.

Enriching experience

Not only the speed of the car is important during these competitions. The team can also gather points besides the track. The students need to work out a business case and convince a jury of experts why their car is the most innovative. “All this makes the project even more enriching. We do not only train our technical skill, but we learn how to work in a interdisciplinary team and we get to know the development process from the beginning until the end. These are the things that cannot be taught in school”, says Willem.

To realise their project, Formula Electric Belgium works together with a network of over 130 companies, innovation centres and non-profit organisations. United under the motto ‘*Green Innovation meets Performance*’, all want to contribute to a more sustainable mobility sector.