

Curiosities of the single-make series

Monlau Competición: “More than a team...and more than a school”

- / One of the teams in the 2015 SEAT Leon Eurocup is a centre of mechanical and engineering studies
- / As part of their professional racing structure they include Masters students and graduates of their educational programmes

Martorell 18/08/2015 – In the 2015 SEAT Leon Eurocup there is a unique racing team, ‘Monlau Competición’: a organisation of schooling for engineering and mechanics in Barcelona that compliments ‘theory’ with the ‘practical’ of real race experience. As part of their professional structure of ten staff in the single-make series - many of them teachers at the school - they also add pupils looking to complete their Masters in race engineering and mechanics.

It is an establishment where most weekends of the year they re-arrange the ‘desks and classrooms’ to well-known circuits and in championships like the SEAT Leon Eurocup, where the race team competes with two cars that are continually vying for points. With vast experience in the world of motorcycle racing, the auto division was added to the set-up in 2003, and in 2006 was expanded to include racing activities. From the beginning the remit for the car project came under the control and gaze of David Simón, the current Technical Director of the department and also a teacher at the centre.

“The philosophy of Monlau Competición is training and development. It is more than a race team and more than just a school. The racing structure is 100% professional. The technicians that go to the races are the same people who teach at the school to continue the education of our students,” explains Simón. **“However our structure at the races can subsequently offer our students the ideal environment of practical experience at the actual events and in series like the SEAT Leon Eurocup. The sole purpose of the team is racing and the schooling is total.”**

“We have examples of graduates that are really satisfying for us like Alberto Castaño and Álex Salas that are currently two chief mechanics of the department. They both passed through the formative and professional stages. It makes us proud to see how these guys have progressed with their careers and their profession,” added Simón.

“I started in Monlau Competición in 2008 as a student. Then I moved onto the car racing team. When I finished my studies I was the second mechanic, then first mechanic and worked my way up to be chief mechanic,” says Alberto Castaño, who is also the first mechanic for Fran Rueda (Monlau Competición) who holds fifth position in the current standings of the SEAT Leon Eurocup with two victories from the eight races disputed in 2015 so far.



Castaño is the best example of the passage of education and training that Monlau Competición offers and provides. **“I finished my Masters last November and in February David [Simón] called me,”** commented Marc Philipp Caamaño Santos, an ex-Masters pupil of engineering from 2014 and now a track and data engineer in the race department of Monlau Competición and directed specifically towards the SEAT Leon Eurocup. **“It’s another level. When you are studying the theory in class there are many concepts to grasp and you see it from another perspective. When you are actually living your work then you have that added responsibility. What I actually want is to keep learning from all the people around me. I want to absorb all this practical experience because in the end it helps you grow. Race by race I grow and progress.”**

Behind it all is the passion for the job and the sport. **“The schedule of the races and the classes is hard to manage but the passion and the dream to do what we do is what drives us on,”** confesses Simón. **“When you specialise in something you like and enjoy then it only gives motivation. It is a push but you take it with a lot of enthusiasm”**, concurs Caamaño. The professionalism, the passion and the dream of a project found in the depths of the SEAT Leon Eurocup has to be the best scenario possible...

For more information about the SEAT Leon Eurocup, visit www.seat-sport.com/eurocup

The SEAT Leon Eurocup is a SEAT Sport competition which this year celebrates its second edition.

Races were held over six weekends in the first year and the new season will feature seven rounds, at several renowned European circuits. The single-brand competition visits seven different European tracks: Paul Ricard (France), Estoril (Portugal), Silverstone (UK), Red Bull Ring (Austria), Nürburgring (Germany), Monza (Italy) and the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya (Spain).

The drivers will again compete in the SEAT Leon Cup Racer, which captures the innovative spirit of SEAT, combining a striking design and a powerful engine. The image of the SEAT Leon Cup Racer displays all its power at first glance yet the DNA of the Leon family design remains intact. Although it has been developed from scratch by the SEAT Sport team as a race car, the Cup Racer is closely related to the SEAT Leon CUPRA, the brands most powerful model in terms of sports performance and driving pleasure.

These front wheel drive cars are equipped with a turbocharged two-litre engine which delivers a maximum power of 330hp, also featuring a dual-clutch DSG six-speed gearbox, widely adjustable suspension and powerful competition brakes, plus an FIA homologated roll-over protection system.

Since 1970, the Spanish brand has built a rich automotive heritage, winning two World Touring Car Championships (2008 and 2009) and three titles in the World Rally Championship two litre category (1996-1998), in addition to organizing successful single-brand competitions around the world. Through other international and regional programs, SEAT Sport has also won over 25 rally and touring car titles.

SEAT Leon Eurocup Press Office

Guillem Novellas

M / 34 625 33 68 52

media@seatleoneurocup.info



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SEAT International Product Relations & Motorsport Communications

Inès Casanovas Roselló

T / 34 93 708 53 76

M / 34 660 51 99 89

ines.casanovas@seat.es

<http://www.seat-mediacyter.com>

<http://www.seat-sport.com/eurocup>