

Training for the future

## A team of students from the SEAT Apprentice School creates a winning electric kart

- / The project won an FP Emprèn prize, in the ‘Industry’ category
- / The team participated in the Kart Academy at the Barcelona-Catalunya circuit in Montmeló, finishing in a well-deserved second place
- / The students had to create the project, defend their business model and generate the financial support for its construction

**Martorell, 02/07/2018.** – A team of students from the SEAT Apprentice School designed, developed and built an electric kart which has recently won a prize in the ‘Industry’ category to middle-degree students presented by FP Emprèn, an organisation which rewards vocational training schools in and around Barcelona. In addition, the team participated last weekend in the Kart Academy, finishing in second place on the podium.

The ‘Industry’ category prize rewards middle-degree apprentices for the supervised creation of an electric kart. These students are in their second year of the Machining and Electromechanical Maintenance training cycles. According to the organisation, the prize acknowledges the project that contributes the best quality and improvements to the industrial sector based on the criteria of coherence, viability, consistency and added value.

A further example of the validity of this electric kart is the result it obtained at last weekend’s Kart Academy, where the team came in second place in the competition, after experiencing engine problems in the endurance race but clearly outperforming their rivals in the other events.

According to Laura Carnicero, the head of training at SEAT and director of the Apprentice School **“the success of this electric kart project shows that the School teaches the necessary technological skills for the automotive industry of the future, enabling the students to become entrepreneurial, competitive professionals.”**

The project was led by three students, but relied on the collaboration of other students who fabricated previously designed parts in the SEAT production facilities. They were supervised by professors of the School during the entire process, who advised them on the technological solutions to implement in their kart.

### **The future of racing is electric**

Students of the Apprentice School begin studying the technology that will be the backbone of the future of racing in their first year, which is the motivation behind developing a vehicle powered by alternative energy.

Prior to rolling their electric karts onto the Montmeló track for the Kart Academy competition, the students were given the opportunity to complete their final check-list in a specially prepared area in the SEAT Barcelona facilities.

The Kart Academy is a competition among teams of students from automotive training institutes and schools in Catalonia. Their goal is to design, build and compete with a kart they themselves have developed, working together to comply with the rules and generate the necessary financial support to carry out their project.

The electric kart project is further proof that professors of the Apprentice School not only provide their students with the necessary tools to learn the techniques, but they also encourage them to develop a business model and launch a vehicle and get it ready for competition.

With this electric kart, the team finished in second place in the Kart Academy competition. Measuring 1.74 metres long and 1.36 metres wide, the kart is powered by a 5.5 kW engine and is equipped with a 48V battery. The competition programme featured braking, accelerating, endurance and slalom and gathered teams from a dozen training schools in the area of automotives.

### **Road safety for children... and more**

The eKid Car is an electric car prototype for children, which was designed and built by students of the School for the purpose of carrying out road safety courses. The prototype is in its final development stage, and once finished, will be scaled up to a fleet size of electric cars to be used in road safety education for children.

AGV Low Cost is the name of an autonomous, battery-powered compact electric tractor which has also been built by students. The aim of this project is to pull heavy carts loaded with logistic material around a closed circuit using a self-driving system for autonomous operation. The project originated in the needs of SEAT's logistics department.

Starting this academic year 2018-2019, the SEAT vocational training centre is completely overhauling its training programme, switching from middle-level Vocational Training courses to a wider range of Advanced Degree courses that are tailored to the needs required by the transformation of industry and digitalisation. While the average training courses in Spain feature a total of about 2,000 hours, the SEAT Apprentice School offers almost 5,000 class hours, which makes it possible to include a large amount of latest technology subject matter.



**SEAT** is the only company that designs, develops, manufactures and markets cars in Spain. A member of the Volkswagen Group, the multinational has its headquarters in Martorell (Barcelona), exporting 80% of its vehicles, and is present in over 80 countries. In 2017, SEAT obtained an after tax profit of 281 million euros and achieved worldwide sales of nearly 470,000 vehicles.

The SEAT Group employs more than 15,000 professionals and has three production centres – Barcelona, El Prat de Llobregat and Martorell, where it manufactures the highly successful Ibiza, Leon and Arona. Additionally, the company produces the Ateca and the Toledo in the Czech Republic, the Alhambra in Portugal and the Mii in Slovakia.

The multinational has a Technical Centre, which operates as a knowledge hub that brings together 1,000 engineers who are focussed on developing innovation for Spain's largest industrial investor in R&D. SEAT already features the latest connectivity technology in its vehicle range and is currently engaged in the company's global digitalisation process to promote the mobility of the future.

#### **SEAT Comunicación**

##### **Cristina Vall-Llosada**

Head of Corporate Communications

T / +34 93 708 53 78

M / +34 646 295 296

[cristina.vall-llosada@seat.es](mailto:cristina.vall-llosada@seat.es)

##### **Estela Muñoz**

Corporate Communications

T / +34 93 708 53 67

M / +34 696 511 747

[estela.munoz@seat.es](mailto:estela.munoz@seat.es)

<http://seat-mediacycenter.es>