

News Release

ExxonMobil

ExxonMobil introduced its Mobil SHC Hydraulic oil in time for the first new street race of the 2008 Grand Prix Calendar

Valencia, 24th August 2008 – This year's new European Grand Prix in Valencia was watched by thousands as it became the first of two new street races to join the Grand Prix Racing calendar. ExxonMobil, Vodafone McLaren Mercedes team Technology Partner, will be celebrating this new race by once again demonstrating their technology with the introduction of Mobil SHC Hydraulic Oil. The brand new application of the oil aims to increase the operating envelope of the Vodafone McLaren Mercedes MP4-23's hydraulic system and increase performance which is crucial at a street race where swift and efficient speed control is essential.

As is often the case, ExxonMobil's expertise is not always obvious to the average spectator but it does play an absolutely vital role in the team's success. The Vodafone McLaren Mercedes MP4-23's hydraulic system comprises of over 1500 parts and is a complex union of electronics and computer controlled servo valves. These valves control the flow of Mobil SHC Hydraulic oil to the 100 moving parts and in turn operate the cars vital systems such as gearbox, clutch, throttle, steering and fuel filler cap. Without which, the car simply would not move.

Bruce Crawley, Mobil 1 Motorsport Technology Manager explained, "Lubricants and electronics have a direct result on engine performance and driveability and this season we have been able to influence how a car performs through the lubricant we use."

Street races in particular place added demands on a car's hydraulic system. The Valencia circuit, with 25 corners - compared to Silverstone's 13 and Monza's nine -

demands numerous gear changes, clutch control and excellent steering response; all of which are operated by the hydraulic system.

Steering response in particular plays a crucial supporting role to the driver and in the success of a team at a street circuit. With the drivers tackling more than double the number of corners than most other circuits, steering precision is paramount. Tuning the steering system to the driver's requirements and matching the oil to those physical characteristics is an integral part of the process. This gives Lewis Hamilton and Heikki Kovalainen the desired feel and response they require from their race vehicles. Such compatibility requires ExxonMobil to work closely with the team to provide a product which gives superior performance.

During this type of race, the car will also undergo an exhausting fluctuation in revs as it enters and exits the 25 corners and seizes the few opportunities to over-take which is also synonymous with a street circuit. Here Mobil SHC Hydraulic oil is necessary to help keep the components in the system cool by removing up to 2kw of heat from the hydraulic system while performing in excess of 100 degrees.

As Jonathan Neale, Managing Director of McLaren Racing confirms: "We need ExxonMobil's research and development lubricant expertise to help win the championship. The role of the lubricant is becoming increasingly complex. When the difference between winning and losing can be down to the slightest detail, the superior technology that ExxonMobil brings to the team is essential. "

Importantly for the European Grand Prix in Valencia, Mobil SHC which is part of the 500 series synthetics family, exhibits outstanding low and high temperature performance. This capability in turn provides added wear protection compared to its mineral based products. Innovation and development has been ongoing throughout their partnership with Vodafone McLaren Mercedes. Mobil SHC Hydraulic oil is another example of ExxonMobil's expertise in synthetic lubricants, once again highlighting how the technology partnership between Vodafone McLaren Mercedes and ExxonMobil continues to deliver improvements to the performance of the race car.

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