Trip to an exotic event

Presentation

Following a very successful 2014 season, we did not want to overthrow the already very good concept of our car for the 2015 season. Instead, we stuck to minor changes in areas that turned out to be a problem in recent years in order to increase our performance. Specifically, we used a new cooling concept, and a new exhaust system. Moreover, we made changes to the already existing monocoque mould in order to meet our updated needs. The aerodynamics turned out to be the single biggest change from the year before. The new rules demanded an entirely new concept for front wing, rear wing, and underbody.

In general, we can say that the light-weight concept was again the most important design principle for the 2015 car. Valuing agility and low weight over high power has been an important factor in our team for a few years, and has proven to fit well with us. Once again, we produced one of the lightest Formula Student cars all over the world.

Participation report

Participating in SFJ was a big adventure for all of us. Right after coming home from Formula Student Austria, we labeled and packed our racing car and all our stuff in boxes. The car travelled to Japan on August 17th, and the team followed on August 26th. The days before the race we spent in the workshop of Tokai University, who kindly hosted us, preparing our car. After picking up our rental cars, we had to accommodate to driving on the right side before we drove on a road with strange Japanese signs to the competition. We were the first team ever from TU Graz participating in SFJ, and the first European one in five years - we knew next to nothing about what we had to expect.

Once we arrived, it’s safe to say we were overwhelmed - by the interest in our car and our team, by all the other cars and teams which we had never seen before, by the new location, by the local rules and all the little unique things about the event and the organization, by all the strange languages being spoken around us and by the occasional communication difficulties. Once we had accommodated to all of this, we were able to conduct a successful event and came away with the overall win. In the end, we are very happy that we went on this adventure, and are thankful that we got the opportunity.

Team-Movie http://www.jsae.or.jp/formula/jp/13th/movie/81.html