



OMP develops new safety equipment for Lotus Renault GP

For the 2011 Formula 1 season, Lotus Renault GP will use a range of new, ultra-light safety kit developed in OMP's specialist research and development laboratories in Genoa,

The new gear, designed especially for Lotus Renault GP, includes fireproof suits, shoes, gloves and ultra-light seatbelts, offering a total weight saving of 20% compared with last season.

This significant weight saving has been achieved thanks to the close working relationship between the two organisations. Having signed a multi-year partnership agreement last year, OMP was keen to fully understand the needs of the drivers and mechanics to deliver products that provide safety, comfort and performance.

The new seat belts will be fitted inside both Lotus Renault GP cars when the 2011 Formula 1 season begins in Australia on the 25th of March. They will feature a new lighter regulator made from forged aluminium – a solution that has resulted in a weight reduction of around 40% compared to the version used in 2010. Furthermore, the new seat belts offer better fit and comfort by using a different weaving process for each of the five types of strap composing the harness.

The OMP suits, gloves and shoes also combine extreme lightness by using innovative solutions. For example, the shoes include carbon inserts for greater sensitivity, and a mix of leather and nomex to guarantee a high level of tensile strength and maximum breathability.

Eric Boullier: "The search for performance in Formula 1 never stops. Every part of the car is constantly reviewed and we are always looking to save weight and improve efficiency. That's why the work carried out by OMP to improve their products and reduce weight is so important. The overall weight saving of 20% is an excellent result, which, combined with the other improvements we make every week, should help us find a performance advantage at the track."

Paul Delprato, Vice President and Managing Director of OMP: "For 2011, Eric [Boullier] set us a formidable challenge: to further reduce the overall weight of the drivers' safety kit by at least 10%. In just a few months we are pleased to have been able to provide a result that exceeds these expectations thanks to the work carried out by our Research and Development laboratory. The creation of these new products is an excellent example of the strong relationship between OMP and Lotus Renault GP."

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