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Fuels and Lubricants to Be "Critical to Race Strategies" in the 2010 Grand Prix Season, According to Vodafone McLaren Mercedes

New Fuel and Lubricants Package Launched by Long-Standing Technology Partner ExxonMobil

FAIRFAX, Va.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- ExxonMobil, Technology Partner to the Vodafone McLaren Mercedes team since 1995, has introduced an innovative new lubricant and fuels package for use in the Mercedes-Benz FO 108X engines of the 2010 Vodafone McLaren Mercedes MP4-25 cars.

Following the FIA's regulation change banning in-race refueling, Mobil 1 engineers were tasked by the Team to place even greater focus on delivering fuel efficiency through reduced friction. This had to be achieved whilst ensuring the same levels of Mobil 1 protection that delivered 100 percent engine reliability in 2009 - as well as the first ever three-race winning Formula One engine¹.

Martin Whitmarsh, Team Principal of Vodafone McLaren Mercedes explains: "For the 2010 season we have an increased emphasis on fuel efficiency and on how we run our cars during the race. That's where our partnership with ExxonMobil helps us to be more competitive. It will be critical to our race strategy to optimise the starting weight and weight of the car during the race, whilst still delivering the durability that allows the engines to run just as hard but for much longer. The ExxonMobil team has responded to this, providing new lubricants and fuels that allow the engine to produce more horsepower, which obviously gives a lap time benefit."

The new Mobil 1 race oil formulation has been approved for use in the MP4-25 following over four months of development in which the blend of approximately 20 constituents, base oil and additives, has been meticulously rebalanced to deliver the fractional improvements in lap times that make the difference between winning and losing.

Bruce Crawley, Motorsports Technology Manager explains: "The process of fuel and lubricant development begins in our Paulsboro research facility with the use of complex mathematical modelling to simulate many different compositions and predict their benefits. This allows us to concentrate our efforts and resources on a few leading formulations that are then developed further. The lead candidate was subjected to over 20,000 km of dyno-testing and over 10,000 km on the track in pre-season testing, before the optimum solution for the challenges of the 2010 season was selected."

With the 2010 cars starting each race with roughly twice as much fuel as in previous

seasons, a significant redesign of the fuel tanks was undertaken. This process was mirrored by ExxonMobil in the reformulation of the fuel, as the relative importance of fuel efficiency as well as factors such as density increased. The new fuel has been designed and rigorously tested to meet these demands, whilst ensuring this is not achieved at the expense of power - once more, all in the pursuit of race-winning seconds.

Andy Cowell, Chief Engineer, Mercedes-Benz High Performance Engines puts this in perspective: "We have already seen some great improvement in terms of efficiency from the FW to FX Mercedes-Benz engines, and as teams look to ration their fuel tightly to ensure the car is as light and therefore as quick as possible, management of fuel efficiency will be more important."

As an industry leader in synthetic lubricants the Mobil 1 Technology Partnership with Vodafone McLaren Mercedes keeps the brand at the pinnacle of the industry, enabling it to develop cutting edge products to maximise performance, reduce engine wear and improve fuel economy for everyday drivers.

Ask your mechanic or look for the Mobil 1 range at leading retailers and auto parts stores.

For more information about Mobil 1, go to www.mobil1.com.

About ExxonMobil

Customers have relied on ExxonMobil lubricants for more than 130 years. Marketed in nearly 200 countries and territories worldwide, ExxonMobil products stand for performance, innovation and expertise. As the industry leader in synthetic lubricants, ExxonMobil makes a full range of products available in the automotive, commercial and industrial business sectors. ExxonMobil recognises that business success and social responsibility go hand in hand. To that end, ExxonMobil works closely to support the communities where it operates and pledges to maintain the highest ethical standards, comply with local laws and respect local and national cultures.

About Mobil 1

Chosen by more original equipment manufacturers than any other oil brand, Mobil 1 is the world's leading synthetic motor oil brand. Additional information about Mobil 1 technology and other ExxonMobil lubricants can be found at www.mobil1.com.

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¹ In 2009, Mobil 1 helped make Mercedes-Benz the first engine manufacturer to win three consecutive race Grand Prix using exactly the same engine when Jenson Button achieved victories in Bahrain, Spain and Monaco

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Source: Exxon Mobil Corporation