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### Dutch and Spanish success at first Formula Zero

3rd September 2008

Formula Zero, the first-ever hydrogen-powered race, was run last week in Rotterdam -- in go karts. The Euplatech2 team from EUPLA University in Zaragoza, Spain, won the one-lap sprint race with a time of 37.7 seconds, while the Greenchoice Forze team from TU Delft University in Delft, the Netherlands won the six lap endurance race at the first-ever Formula Zero event.

Formula Zero was founded in 2003 by Dutch motorsport enthusiasts Godert van Hardenbroek and Eelco Rietveld in an effort to advance alternative forms of racing. For the first phase of the Formula Zero plan, 12 groups of university students were invited to build hydrogen-powered go-karts to compete. The top six teams competed at the Formula Zero race at Rotterdam. Teams came from Great Britain, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium and the U.S. The first race consisted of two parts, a one-lap sprint race for the best time and a six-lap endurance race for an overall winner, who would hold the position of "zeroth place," instead of first place.

The next event will be held in late March in Columbia, South Carolina to kick off the 20th Anniversary National Hydrogen Association Conference and Hydrogen Expo.

In the near future, Formula Zero, which is recognized by the FIA, hopes to scale up its program to larger cars and races. The 2009 season will feature four races, and by 2011, Formula Zero hopes to be running actual racecars on street circuits. By 2015, the organization hopes to see manufacturer-backed cars running on race tracks around the world.

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