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**INFINITI MOTOR COMPANY LTD**  
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[www.infiniti.com](http://www.infiniti.com)

## Media Information – 2016 Infiniti Engineering Academy Launch

April 14, 2016

### **Infiniti offers top international engineering students the Formula One™ career opportunity of a lifetime**

Hong Kong – Infiniti's global search for the best up-and-coming student engineering talent begins its third successive year with the launch today of the 2016 Infiniti Engineering Academy. Students from all over the world have the chance to earn the career opportunity of a lifetime working at Infiniti Motor Company and the Renault Sport Formula One™ Team.

Infiniti's new Technical Partnership with the Renault Sport Formula One™ Team includes, as a crucial component, this unique automotive-to-Formula One™ training program for brilliant young engineers.

"Year on year, we continue to strive to improve the Academy, and now, with our new and deep-reaching Technical Partnership with the Renault Sport Formula One™ Team, we can offer six engineers a truly technically rich, multi-discipline engineering placement," said Tommaso Volpe, Global Director, Infiniti Motorsport.

"Not only will they spend six months at the Infiniti Technical Center for Europe (Cranfield, UK), they will also experience the facilities at the Renault Sport Formula One™ Team base in Enstone, Oxfordshire.



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Combining opportunities to work at both companies means our 2016 Infiniti Engineering Academy winners are set to craft their careers from the outset with an incredible 12 months at the cutting-edge of big business automotive and motorsport engineering," added Volpe.

### **Success Breeds Success**

Having launched the careers of previous winners William Priest and Eric LaRoche, the academy is THE technical recruitment initiative in Formula One™. This year the following global Infiniti regions are participating: China, Europe (including Russia), Canada, Mexico and Asia & Oceania, with the Middle East and US to be confirmed at a later date.

"We are offering a mix of academic and professional experience across such disciplines as Electronics, Aerodynamics, Mechanical Design and Composite Design," explained Bob Bell, Renault Sport F1® Chief Technical Officer. "The academy offers a compelling opportunity for up-and-coming engineers to experience the fundamentals of automotive and motorsport engineering".

With the added depth of knowledge transfer, not least in Infiniti's performance hybrid expertise being used for joint ERS development in Viry-Châtillon, France, and enhanced scope for collaboration that Infiniti's Technical Partnership brings to the Academy, 2016 will open up a wide range of experiences and opportunities to the six winners.

For more information on the Infiniti Engineering Academy, or to apply to be a part of the class of 2016, visit <http://academy.infiniti.com>.

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**About Infiniti:**

Infiniti Motor Company Ltd. is headquartered in Hong Kong with sales operations in over 50 countries. The Infiniti brand was launched in 1989. Its range of premium automobiles is currently built in manufacturing facilities in Japan, the United States, United Kingdom and China. Infiniti plans to also expand manufacturing into Mexico by 2017.

Infiniti design studios are located in Atsugi-Shi, near Yokohama, London, San Diego and Beijing. Infiniti is in the middle of a major product offensive. The brand has been widely acclaimed for its iconic design and innovative driver-assistance technologies.

More information about Infiniti and its industry leading technologies can be found at [www.infiniti.com](http://www.infiniti.com). You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and see all our latest videos on [YouTube](#).

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## **SUPPORTING MATERIALS – Q&As**

### **Q&A: Tommaso Volpe, Global Director, Infiniti Motorsport**

#### **Why is Infiniti running the Infiniti Engineering Academy again?**

*"This year more than ever our close relationship with F1® brings direct benefits to the development of our road cars. As the Technical Partner to the newly formed Renault Sport Formula One™ Team, specifically for the co-development of the Renault Sport R.E.16 Power Unit's Energy Recovery System (ERS), our Academy engineers will work across both road car and race car hybrid systems; cross-pollenating the application of the mirrored technologies. Just as the winners from previous years have done, the seven candidates we find in 2016 will play a key role in bridging the gap between us and the race team."*

#### **What role will the winners play for Infiniti?**

*"Infiniti is in the middle of a major product offensive, and the Infiniti Direct Response Hybrid® performance hybrid powertrain technology is a pillar of the Infiniti range of high performance vehicles, now and in the future. Our performance philosophy is deeply rooted in hybrid technology; we are pioneers of electrifying electrified performance, and as F1® continues to develop and flourish in this area, so too will our engineers working within the Renault Sport Formula One™ Team."*

#### **What are the main differences to last year's program?**

*"We're now in our third successive year, and year-on-year we've grown the number of Infiniti Engineering Academy placements available. From three, to five, and to seven for 2016; our global engineering talent search continues to offer the ultimate work placement for the cream of engineering talent. This year we'll take a winner from each participating region - truly global talent on an international stage."*

#### **What tips would you give to applicants for 2016?**

*"We want candidates that dare to be different. Candidates who think about challenges from fresh angles; brimming with the kind of creative human talents that we believe drive the greatest advances in high performance technologies. 'Game changers' may sound clichéd, but the automotive industry and F1® have never been more competitive, so we need the best of the best."*



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### **Q&A: Bob Bell, Renault Sport F1® , Chief Technical Officer**

**There are five Infiniti Engineering Academy 2015/16 winners working with you at the Renault Sport Formula One™ Team. What departments are they working in?**

*"They are working in Electronics, the Design Office, Performance Systems and Aerodynamics. One winner for each department, except for Aerodynamics which gets two new engineers. These are key development areas for any Formula One™ team, so all of the new engineers will feel the weight of expectation very quickly when they join us."*

**Do the winning engineers in the 2016 Academy get to pick the Formula One™ areas they work in?**

*"No, but they will have some input into the decision. They have been through the rigorous Infiniti Engineering Academy selection process and spent several months on technical placements at Infiniti, so we already know where some of their strengths lie. After interviewing them further and speaking to their manager at Infiniti we have built up a detailed picture of how the Formula One™ team can benefit from their nascent talents, and how we can help them accelerate their learning."*

**Describe the first few days for the new engineers.**

*"Each of the new engineers will need to quickly bed in to their new department to understand the processes there, and understand the tasks required of them. We're interested to understand their fresh perspectives on these processes and tasks. Perhaps there is a better way of doing things that we have not seen. After that we need results and progress very quickly, as is always the way in Formula One™."*

**What skills and experience are you expecting the new engineers to bring to the team?**

*"The guys have been working at the Infiniti Technical Center at Cranfield on road car projects, like the new Infiniti Q30. Tasks within the main Q30 project would include testing the car's electronic systems and components, and designing and implementing test bench systems for various features of the Q30. This state-of-the-art road car testing and component evaluation will cross over directly to our factory where the new engineers will be using the latest equipment and software to analyse various aspects of the race car. There is also Infiniti's recognized expertise in hybrid technology; energy recovery, storage and deployment. We'll be looking to exploit this knowledge in our power unit department immediately."*



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**In what other ways does the Infiniti Engineering Academy benefit the team?**

*"It takes a certain type of engineer to really flourish in Formula One™, and the quality and in-depth selection process employed by the Infiniti Engineering Academy ensures that we get the right people for the job, right away. Time is the most precious commodity in Formula One™, so to know what these engineering undergraduates have been through before they get to us – both in terms of the selection process, and their six-month technical placements with Infiniti – is very reassuring."*

**How will their placement with you help these young engineers develop?**

*"I'm sure that working for large organization like the Renault-Nissan Alliance, specifically for Infiniti and the Renault Sport Formula One™ Team, will really open their eyes to the real world of big business engineering."*

*They will understand that they need to stay creative, flexible and fast-moving in their engineering tasks, but also that they must function well in their teams, and the factory as a whole. Formula One™ and motorsport in general – and the technology powering them - are growing ever closer to the automotive industry, and the Infiniti Engineering Academy is a forward-looking project geared to training modern professionals to be successful at the pinnacle of engineering.*

*The resources, experience and knowledge they will now have access to may take them by surprise initially, but they must quickly learn to make the most of their colleagues and harness these vast resources; all for the good of their projects. They will also meet a great many new people from different cultures and backgrounds as Formula One™ is a truly international motorsport."*

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