



Designing the ultimate Racing Car from home

Livestream from the Ford virtual design studio on 21 May, at 16:00 CET

COLOGNE, Germany, May 20, 2020 – While [vehicle production has restarted](#) at Ford facilities across Europe and North America, vehicle development has been kept on track during the COVID-19 crisis through the use of virtual reality.

During the lockdown, Ford designers collaborated on new vehicles in a virtual design studio. Using VR headsets, they worked alongside each other in a virtual world to review computer aided design-generated models of vehicles in development, as clay modelling wasn't possible.

The team also worked on early sketches of the ultimate virtual racing car designed for the Team Fordzilla P1 Project. The captains of Ford's five Fordzilla esports teams from France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK, and their communities, have been closely involved in co-creating this racing car. An initial series of eight polls received more than 220.000 votes to help shape the design package of this unique vehicle, with the design scheduled for completion in mid-June.

"Collaboration is integral to design. We need to be able to try things, bounce ideas around and get feedback from others. Virtual reality enables us to do just that while staying at home, but we never imagined we would employ it the way we have and that it would make us see vehicle design in a new way," said Amko Leenarts, director, Design, Ford of Europe.

Key members of Ford's global design leadership team, including Amko Leenarts, will give a demonstration of this virtual design studio on 21 May, at 16:00 CET during a special livestream event hosted on the [Car Design News](#) website.

During the livestream, the designers, from Europe, the US and Australia, will answer questions, discuss how COVID-19 might influence the future of design and conduct the first review of the Team Fordzilla P1 Project.

Ford is also using virtual reality for rendering vehicle interiors. [360° sketching](#) is a tool that enables designers to imagine and share drawings that can immediately be experienced from the driver's point of view, or from anywhere inside the car, in 3D or in virtual reality.

As the Ford design teams gradually return to the actual design studio, virtual reality will continue to be used for global collaborations and to complement the clay modelling process.

###

About Ford Motor Company

Ford Motor Company is a global company based in Dearborn, Michigan. The company designs, manufactures, markets and services a full line of Ford cars, trucks, SUVs, electrified vehicles and Lincoln luxury vehicles, provides financial services through Ford Motor Credit Company and is pursuing leadership positions in electrification; mobility solutions, including self-driving services; and connected

services. Ford employs approximately 188,000 people worldwide. For more information regarding Ford, its products and Ford Motor Credit Company, please visit www.corporate.ford.com.

Ford of Europe is responsible for producing, selling and servicing Ford brand vehicles in 50 individual markets and employs approximately 46,000 employees at its wholly owned facilities and consolidated joint ventures and approximately 61,000 people when unconsolidated businesses are included. In addition to Ford Motor Credit Company, Ford Europe operations include Ford Customer Service Division and 19 manufacturing facilities (12 wholly owned facilities and seven unconsolidated joint venture facilities). The first Ford cars were shipped to Europe in 1903 – the same year Ford Motor Company was founded. European production started in 1911.

Ford in Belgium & Luxemburg

Ford Belgium distributes Ford vehicles and Ford original parts in Belgium & Luxemburg, since 1922. Ford Lommel Proving Ground is the lead test facility for validation of all Ford models in Europe, with approximately 390 employees.

###

Contact:

Jo Declercq – Directeur Communications & Public Affairs – 02.482.21.03 – jdecler2@ford.com

Julien Libioul – Press Officer – 02.482.21.05 – jlibioul@ford.com