

News release
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XITE Energy Racing stars Oli Bennett and Jenson Button thrilled with first FC1-X test

- XITE drivers Oli and Jenson run an FC1-X at a two-day test in Barcelona
- Jenson puts down more rallycross mileage in lower formula cars in Spain
- Oli confident for the Nitro Rallycross season ahead with his XITE Energy Racing squad
- More testing and promotion to come from XITE Energy Racing powered by myenergi

XITE Energy Racing powered by myenergi drivers Oli Bennett and Jenson Button enjoyed their first taste of the 1000bhp FC1-X at a rallycross track in Barcelona this week.

The British pair drove the all-electric car they will use in this season's Nitro Rallycross championship in a two-day test and while handling that much power around the Circuit de Barcelona Catalunya is entirely familiar for Jenson – getting on the handbrake and heading for the dirt was an all-new experience.

But one he quickly fell in love with.

“It was a really good experience,” said the 2009 Formula 1 World Champion.

“It was a lot of fun and loads of power. The car feels very like the old Group B [rally] cars, with stupid amounts of power which can be difficult to control. I think that'll be the big thing, learning to drive and turn a car with so much power, trying to keep it straight when it just wants to go sideways!”

The XITE Energy team ran in mixed conditions with Wednesday's track time in the dry before it turned wet in Catalunya on Thursday. That gave the pair an opportunity to share their expertise.

Jenson added: “Oli and I have been talking a lot over the last couple of days on how we're driving the lap, using the handbrake and the lines in the wet. It was mostly Tarmac, so I was helping him with the lines and he was helping me with the dirt driving. He was talking me through how sideways to be; what's quick, what isn't and where to turn in.

“On Tarmac, it's easy to pick your turn-in point, but on dirt the car doesn't react so quickly, so you have to turn in much earlier and it feels like you're going to crash into the apex – but you don't.

“It's been a good learning curve over the past two days. I drove the Lites and RX2E car as well, which helped get my eye in and understand the rallycross car more.

“We know there's set-up work to be done with the car, but this is a great product and a great starting point.”

Oli echoed those sentiments, adding:

“The first test was really good. It was more of a shakedown of the FC1-X, but we had a good dry day yesterday (Wednesday) and managed to do eight laps. It was amazing to drive. The handling was good, the power was just insane. And, like Jenson said, getting used to the power and how to use it is one of the main things.

“And if it was tricky in the dry, it was a real handful in the wet. We didn’t change anything on the car, it was just about some seat time and learning more about it. We’ve done that, we know we’ve got a very, very fast car for the season ahead and now we go back to the UK and start working towards the season ahead.”

That work includes testing and promotional work with XITE Energy and team partner myenergi.

“This car really is the perfect platform to showcase what electric vehicles and myenergi are all about,” said Oli.

“I’m really pleased with how the week’s gone. I’ve said it before, but Jenson coming to the team has lifted XITE Energy Racing’s ambitions even higher. As a team, we’re feeling confident for the year ahead and me? I just can’t wait to get to the start of the first race. It’s going to be insane.”

Nitro Rallycross 2022/23 schedule

England June 18/19

Sweden July 30/31

Finland August 27/28

USA (Minneapolis) October 1/2

USA (Los Angeles) October 29/30

USA (Phoenix) November 12/13

Saudi Arabia December 10/11

Canada (Quebec) January 21/22

Canada (Alberta) February 4/5

USA March TBA

Ends