

F1: Torro Rosso roll out their first "in house" car

There has always been a rule that a Formula One car should be, at its heart, developed by the team that runs it. Or, at least, bought from a team that has failed. But for four years, Scuderia Toro Rosso have skirted that rule with extensive collaboration with Red Bull. So the FIA reinforced the regulations and as from this year, STR have to build their own car. The STR 5 is their first effort. But it has at last been revealed just how much help STR was getting from its big brother.

"Being recognised as a constructor involves owning the intellectual property rights to what are defined as the listed parts," explained technical chief Giorgio Ascanelli to the F1 website. "These are effectively the monocoque, the safety structures that are subject to homologation and crash testing, which means the rear and front structures, primary and secondary roll-over structures and the complete aerodynamic package, the suspension, fuel and cooling systems."

His boss, Franz Tost, added that the company has bought the old Red Bull wind tunnel and now they are having to learn what the data from it means; they have added 80 to the headcount.

The car is powered by Ferrari. In the first day of the 2010 test, it was quickly sidelined with a gearbox problem and was well off the pace of the quicker cars. However, the test is not usually a good guide to form as teams shake down components, drivers learn the characteristics of the car and tyre and fuel balances are worked out - both particularly important this year with new tyres, much narrower on the front being required and no in-race refuelling allowed.