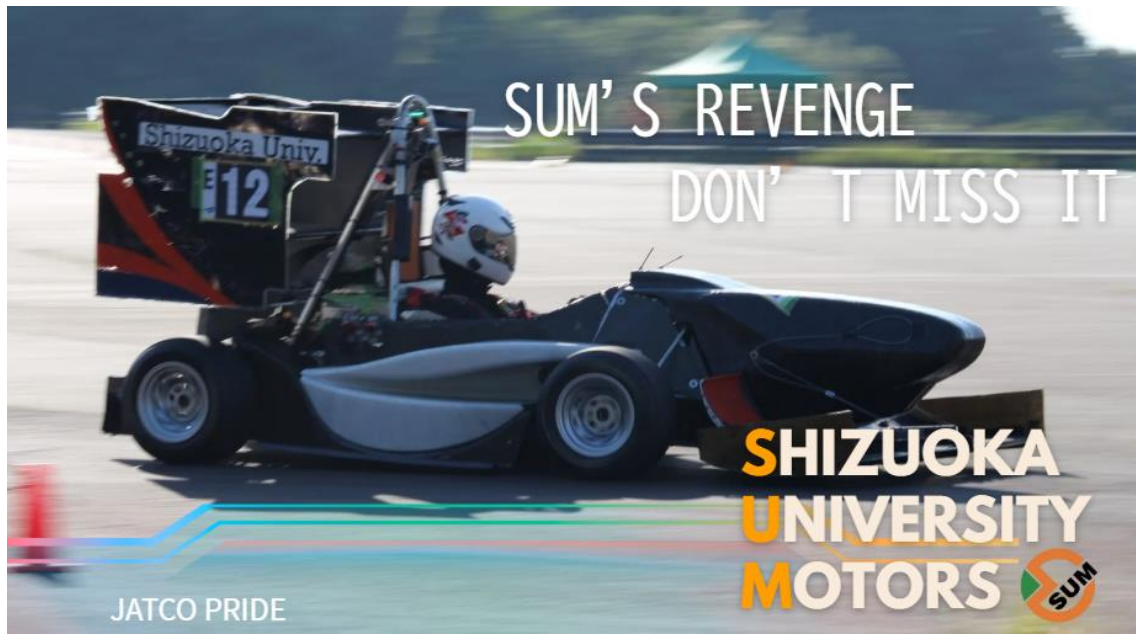


SUM's counterattack. Look closely



The annual grand stage for Shizuoka University Motors (commonly known as SUM), which JATCO is supporting from 2023, is about to begin. The Student Formula Japan 2025 Championship (September 8-13, Aichi Sky Expo), known as the "Koshien of car manufacturing," is just two weeks away. At the last tournament, which was our third time competing in the EV class, they were unable to pass inspection due to an electrical system problem, and were unable to compete in any dynamic events, which was a shame. To get revenge, we have been steadily preparing the car for the test run at Ecopa this month. We spoke to team leader Kimura and three female team members about their enthusiasm.



Test run at Ecopa in August

Team Leader Kimura (Management Team)



Team leader Kimura

A fulfilling university life

We at SUM are a team of students who handle everything from machine design to production and evaluation. Currently, the club has 44 members divided into the electrical equipment team, chassis team, aero team, drivetrain team, cost team, design team, presentation team, and management team. Until now, the team has competed in the Student Formula Japan Championship in the ICV (engine class), but from 2022 they will be competing in the EV class. I became interested in motorsports just before entering university, and, influenced by a friend from high school, I joined SUM. In terms of team management, there are many different

types of people in proportion to the number of members, so I try to be sensitive to their strengths and bring them together. There are seven female members in the club, so we are grateful to receive opinions from a variety of perspectives. There are times when it's harder than expected, but when the machine starts running, there's a great sense of accomplishment. Also, unlike the typical club activities that university students might have, SUM not only teaches cars but also gives students the opportunity to gain experience in areas such as team management that will be necessary for their future working lives, making for a fulfilling student life. I am originally from Higashiizu in Shizuoka Prefecture, and I would like to utilize this experience, particularly in the automotive industry in Shizuoka Prefecture.



Monthly activity reports are sent to sponsoring companies

For the people who support me

I believe that the best way to repay the support of our sponsors is to show them the car in action. In 2023, the race was stopped midway, and in 2024, it was not able to run at all, so we designed and built it while people around us told us, "It'll be bad if we can't run this year." This time, I want to run well in the competition

and live up to expectations, showing the students how hard they are working. The frame of the 2025 machine, the Hamakaze SE-125, is the same as the 2024 model, but we have brushed up various aspects of it, including using new parts, and have first evolved it so that it can reliably compete in all events. We had a shakedown (a test of the completed vehicle before an official run) in May, and I'm glad we were able to run it at the test run event. My first goal is to complete all events, but I also want to compete on equal terms with other universities and demonstrate SUM's fighting power.



Check the specifications in detail

As for your wallet situation...

As for the club members' financial situation, in addition to collecting club fees (4,000 yen per month), many of them are car enthusiasts and have their own cars, so their wallets are completely empty (laughs). I think about 80% of the club members work part-time to cover the costs. Many of you work in the food and beverage industry or as cram schoolteachers. I work part-time as a cram schoolteacher once or twice a week.



(From left) Participating in the 2024 JATCO Festa and NISMO FISTIVAL
Relationship with JATCO

We have been working with JATCO since fiscal year 2023, and I previously participated in a factory tour, where I felt the atmosphere at work was great. I would also like to participate in an internship at the company. I am grateful to have been invited to events such as JATCO Festa and NISMO FESTIVAL. We look forward to your continued support.

**Ms.Anzai (Aero Management Team), Ms.Seto (Drivetrain Team),
Ms.Matsuzaki (Chassis Management Team)**

Anzai: I joined SUM because I wanted to participate in the kart test drive event at the freshman welcome party and to make friends with seniors in my department. It's difficult because I'm learning things that are far removed from my academic studies, but I don't usually get the opportunity to interact with sponsoring companies in my daily life. I also get to operate machine tools, which is a new experience and fun. I'm busy at SUM now, but I want to go on to graduate school and then figure out my real job!

Seto: I was originally interested in cars and wanted to try drawing blueprints. SUM has a lot of female seniors, so I thought it would be a lot of fun and decided to join! I'm in the mechanical engineering department, so I'm able to study firsthand how the aerodynamics and thermal dynamics of cars that I learned about in my department are applied to actual manufacturing.

Matsuzaki: You said it first (laughs). I joined SUM because I was interested in making things! I get to learn about various sponsoring companies, and best of all, it's fun because I often get to use machine tools. Building a machine is a little different from academic studies, but there are some commonalities, as aerodynamics is something you learn in academic studies as well.



(From left) Anzai, Seto, and Matsuzaki

3 people: Please support us!



Member of SUM. From X in SUM

SUM...Established in 2004, it has participated in the Student Formula Japan Championship since the second tournament. Starting in 2022, the team will compete in the EV class, and the name of its 2025 machine will be "Hamakaze SE-125." The group consists of 44 members in total: 12 first-year students, 18 second-year students, 8 third-year students, 3 fourth-year students, and 3

graduate students.

Student Formula Japan Championship...Sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers of Japan, a public interest incorporated association. The competition takes place using small formula-style racing cars that students have planned, designed, and built. There are two judging classes: ICV (gasoline engine) and EV (electric), and there are three judging events: vehicle inspection, static inspection, and dynamic inspection. On the day of the event, employees of JATCO and JATCO Engineering will also be participating as volunteers.