

University of Vermont

- Catamount Racing -

SAE Mini Baja

2009-2010 Sponsorship Information Packet



University of Vermont

Mechanical Engineering Department

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Dear Potential Sponsor,

I am contacting you on behalf of the University of Vermont Mini Baja team – Catamount Racing. UVM Mini Baja is a student run club that designs, builds, and races highly competitive, off-road vehicles conforming to rules specified by the Society of Automotive Engineers. Catamount Racing has had great success in the past and we would like to continue our winning tradition while involving your company in it.

The 2008-2009 season was a very busy and exciting season for the Catamount Racing team. Following the graduation of multiple seniors who were integral members of the team, the relatively young remaining members gained valuable experience in designing a car from scratch and making ideas into reality. Everyone involved in last season's project will be returning and are all striving to produce the top Mini Baja car in its field.

The UVM Baja team has acquired a sound reputation among its peers in a very short time. Even though the club started as a senior project in 2001, it has matured into a recognized club at UVM, while receiving many awards along the way. In the 2006-2007 season, Catamount racing placed 10th out of 102 teams in Rapid City, South Dakota and also brought home a 1st place trophy for the acceleration test in Ocala, Florida. The 2006-2007 car gained even more accolades in the weigh-ins where it was determined that the car was among the 15 lightest SAE Baja cars in the world at the time (~360lbs).

With such an impressive start, the team will be using the experience gained from making such high quality cars and make strides to top our old achievements. A chassis has already been designed and built using the race proven techniques. The transmission is also fairly well shored up with our own team-designed fixed ratio gearbox. There are areas where we can improve though. We are researching suspension tuning and steering geometry in hopes of improving vehicle dynamics and behavior. Our refined approach to tuning the suspension will surely help us remain competitive in the coming seasons.

While UVM Mini Baja has all the enthusiasm and ingenuity it needs to design a very competitive and well engineered car this can't happen without generous funding. While the team is given funding from the UVM Student Government that generally covers the fabrication of the vehicle, an additional \$16,000 in funding each year is dedicated to registering, traveling, and competing successfully in all of the races. We aim to be highly competitive and funding from companies like yours is a key part of that.

You may ask what your company gains by sponsoring such a club. The SAE collegiate design series (including Mini Baja) have a reputation of providing unmatched experience to student engineers. This experience includes team management methods, cutting edge engineering design techniques, financial balancing, and top-notch machining/fabrication skills. In a nutshell, UVM Mini Baja team members are better prepared for the industry world, even prior to college graduation. By sponsoring the UVM Mini Baja team, your company not only contributes to our continued success, but

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also places yourself in close proximity with very capable engineers, ready to tackle “real-world” challenges.

I would like to thank you for your time in considering sponsoring the UVM Mini Baja Team and I look forward to starting a relationship with your company.

Best Regards,

Pat Brooks – Team Treasurer – UVM Mini Baja