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ALFA ROMEO'S 215mph 'SALOON CAR'

Alfa Romeo's stunning new 215 mph ProCar, a competition car designed to look exactly like road versions of the new 164 sports saloon, takes centre stage on Alfa Romeo (GB) Limited's stand at this year's Motor Show at the NEC.

The result of a joint venture between British Formula One specialists, Brabham, and Alfa Romeo, the 164 ProCar has been built as a feasibility study for a new formula of motorsport.

To comply with FISA's proposed regulations, the car must exactly resemble a current high-volume production car, although the chassis and mechanicals can be completely different.

Built of a lightweight composite of carbon fibre and kevlar, the bodywork is a precision reproduction of that of the road-going 164, right down to the badges, bumpers, indicators and wipers. Both front doors even have authentic-looking shiny key locks.

Under the skin, the ProCar uses the latest competition technology. Instead of a front-mounted 3.0-litre V6 driving the front wheels, it uses a brand new Alfa Romeo 3.5-litre V10 engine, positioned centrally, which drives the rear wheels. Whereas the 143 mph 3.0-litre 164 produces 192 horsepower, the ProCar develops over 600 bhp. In the road car, 60 mph comes in 7.5 seconds, but on the track, ProCar manages it in just over two seconds, and top speed, depending on gearing, is well over 215 mph.



In line with existing Formula One design, the ProCar has a central 'tub' of aluminium/Nomex honeycomb, lined with carbon and kevlar. The longitudinally-mounted engine forms a fully stressed part of the chassis.

Although this new ProCar formula has yet to be given any firm starting date, Alfa Romeo are the first manufacturers to exploit the potential of the new regulations, and produce a proper, running, feasibility study to establish the formula's performance benchmark.



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For further information contact:

Peter Frater, *Press and Public Relations Manager*

Tim Holmes, *Press Manager*

Kate Napier, *Press and Public Relations Officer*

Alfa Romeo (GB) Limited

Poultton Close, Dover, Kent CT17 0HP.

Telephone: (0304) 212500



PERFORMANCE CARS

ALFA ROMEO 164 PROCAR TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Engine		
Type	72-degree V10, mid-mounted, longitudinal layout	
Capacity	3,500 cc	
Valve gear	Double overhead camshafts per bank, four valves per cylinder	
Fuel supply/ignition	Bosch digital integrated electronic system	
Transmission		
Type	Longitudinally-mounted, six-speed plus reverse	
Suspension	Independent by quadrilateral wishbone with pushrod spring/damper units and anti-roll bar	
Chassis	Integral, of composite material with stress bearing power unit	
Brakes	Self-ventilating carbon discs	
Fuel Capacity	100 litres	
Tyres	Front	Michelin 23/66 x 17
	Rear	Michelin 35/66 x 17
Weight	750 kg	
Performance	Top Speed	215 mph plus
	0-60 mph	2.1 seconds

