

Testing at Ford's high-tech ETL allows the team to capture valuable data



**MOTORBASE / FOCUS BTCC**

# TESTING, TESTING...

The Motorbase crew head to Ford's R&D facility at Dunton to test the Focus in their Environmental Test Laboratory...



Here at Motorbase it's been a winter of change for us, but the one permanent fixture has been our close relationship with Ford. We work well together as they embrace the significance of going racing and we understand the fantastic proposition that is the Focus ST. We have been running the car for a while now and have seen some outstanding results.

Since last season the team has been working hard alongside Mountune on an all-new version of Ford's highly-acclaimed EcoBoost engine for the 2015 season. And we're pleased with the results so far!

This month we got the opportunity to run the engine at

Ford's UK Research and Development facility at Dunton, Essex to gain valuable data ahead of our testing program. The lab we have been using is called the ETL (Environmental Test Laboratory). This part of the facility has a state-of-the-art rolling road located in a temperature-controlled cell which means we can operate the car in specific conditions with 100% consistency. For example, we specify a temperature similar to those we experience throughout the season. We then specify the simulated wind speed and we can go through various tests using those parameters. With this we can change the cooling characteristics of the car and monitor the cooling efficiency of the intercooler, radiator and oil coolers etc.

Because we're on the rolling road and not on track, we can also

monitor live telemetry of a variety of temperature readings provided via thermocouples spread over the cooling devices as well as all the other relevant engine sensors. We under-use the facility for what it's capable of.

It's able to simulate conditions of minus 40 to plus 40 degrees and can simulate high & low altitude as well as different sun exposure as well. This is only a small piece of the technology located at Dunton, it's hugely interesting to see what goes on in the research & development of the road going vehicles and the amazing attention to detail.

Developing the new EcoBoost engine with a whole new installation is always going to be a challenge for a team – so to be able to use this facility is great for our program. It can save us days of circuit testing where the conditions are changeable and you



**2015 car is powered by a new Mountune-built EcoBoost engine**

can never get 100% reliable data. We had a 100% finishing record with Mat Jackson last year – which helped us secure runner up in the Independents Championship & 4th overall. It's tests like these which help us to achieve these results. We plan to utilise the test track at Dunton prior to each race meeting for our systems shakedown throughout the year too.

There is no doubt in our minds that we will once again be challenging for title honours this year, but for now it's time to get ready for BTCC Media Day (which will have happened by the time you read this) where we can announce the line-up for the 2015 season. More on that next month though...

**"WE'RE HOPING TO BE TITLE CHALLENGERS" MOTORBASE**