



Driving lessons at Ford Lommel give Team Sky the Edge !

Sint-Agatha-Berchem, 20 December 2016 – When you're racing for the finish line every split-second counts. That goes as much for the support team as for Team Sky cycling stars that have delivered four Tour de France victories.

For the 2017 season, Team Sky asked us to train their team of elite Sport Directors who trail the riders in race cars, managing the race strategy via radio and making sure they have everything they need, from an energy drink to a whole new bike.

We invited them to Lommel Proving Ground, in Belgium, to put them through Ford's Professional Driver programme on our test track, using Performance Fords & the All-Wheel Drive Mondeo estate cars that are now an integral part of the race team.

"We all were very astonished by the progress these guys made – and how passionate they were about this driver training." said Johan Craeghs, who led a team of instructors to show the drivers how to deal with conditions including a full skid, braking and laps around the high speed handling track. "They really felt they could improve their driving skills and use that in the race."

Training also included loading up the cars with a full complement of bicycles – with each vehicle able to carry nine bikes as well as wheels, tools, spare kit and a cool-box

"The benefit to us will be during a race. If we can now feel more comfortable and relaxed driving in extreme situations, it will be safer and allow us more time to concentrate on race strategy," said, multi Tour de France-winning Sports Director Nico Portal.

Includes Video & Pictures.

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About Ford Motor Company

Ford Motor Company is a global automotive and mobility company based in Dearborn, Michigan. With about 203,000 employees and 62 plants worldwide, the company's core business includes designing, manufacturing, marketing and servicing a full line of Ford cars, trucks and SUVs, as well as Lincoln luxury vehicles. To expand its business model, Ford is aggressively pursuing emerging opportunities with investments in electrification, autonomy and mobility. Ford provides financial services through Ford Motor Credit Company. For more information regarding Ford and its products and services, please visit www.corporate.ford.com.

Ford of Europe

Ford of Europe is responsible for producing, selling and servicing Ford brand vehicles in 50 individual markets and employs approximately 53,000 employees at its wholly owned facilities and approximately 68,000 people when joint ventures and unconsolidated businesses are included. In addition to Ford Motor Credit Company, Ford Europe operations include Ford Customer Service Division and 24 manufacturing facilities (16 wholly owned or

consolidated joint venture facilities and 8 unconsolidated joint venture facilities). The first Ford cars were shipped to Europe in 1903 – the same year Ford Motor Company was founded. European production started in 1911.

Ford in Belgium & Luxemburg

Ford Belgium (Brussels) distributes Ford vehicles and Ford original parts in Belgium & Luxemburg, since 1922. Ford Lommel Proving Ground is the lead test facility for validation of all Ford models in Europe, with 410 employees.

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