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Racing Elise readied for the road in S Cup form

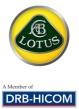
Renowned for its race-bred ethos, the development of the Elise Cup R into an enticing new model is now complete.



Following extensive testing, Lotus has finely honed its engaging Elise S into a Cup variant. A dramatic 3.0s reduction of the Hethel lap time of the Elise S suggests that enthusiasts seeking a viable track-day / road car need look no further.

Visual appeal has been bolstered with the striking addition of a front splitter, with end winglets, lateral bargeboards, a fixed roof, tail wing and a purposeful rear diffuser. The combined aerodynamic benefits increase downforce by 66kg at 100mph and a remarkably effective 125kg at maximum velocity.

Marking the first Elise S Cup to roll off the Lotus production line, Jean-Marc Gales, CEO Group Lotus plc, stated: "This engaging new model accentuates the pure driving competence elicited by Lotus. Light, agile and significantly faster on-track than the standard Elise S, it will appeal to competition-minded enthusiasts."



The Lotus Elise S Cup has been developed from the successful Elise Cup R race car. In line with Lotus history, the crossover between road and race models remains inherent to the brand. The S Cup variant has been developed both at Hethel and the Nürburgring Circuit in Germany, with the primary aim of not losing the important race car pedigree.

Yet, at no stage of development have the vital Lotus characteristics of combined lightweight engineering and inherent chassis rigidity been compromised. While the modifications are track biased, the ride and handling remains in perfect balance, thereby making the Elise S Cup a realistic and uncompromised ownership proposition.

The 'fresh out of the box' appeal, allied to Lotus's focused attention to detail, means that the Elise S Cup can be used on the track on Sunday and driven to work on Monday, such is its dual-nature character. As the car has been developed by Lotus's renowned engineering department, embodying the knowledge gained from its long history, owners can feel confident in making the right choice.

To create the transition from road to thoroughly focused track car, the Elise S Cup is equipped with a T45 specification roll-hoop, which allows for future upgrades to competition harnesses and full roll cage. Electrical modifications enable the easier installation of a fire extinguisher and 'kill-switch'. UK price starts at £43,500, Austria: €75,550, Belgium: €57,480, France: €57,000, Germany: €56,530, Italy: €57,950, Netherlands: €81,690m Switzerland: CHF67,900. For other currency prices, please contact the Lotus press office. Orders can be placed now.

Max power - 217 hp at 6800 rpm (220 PS) Max torque - 184 lbft at 4600rpm (250 Nm) 0-60 mph - 4.2 seconds 0-100 km/h - 4.6 seconds Max speed - 140 mph (225 km/h)

Fuel Consumption (mpg (l/100 km) Urban – 28.5 (9.9) Extra Urban – 46.3 (6.1) Combined - 37.7 (7.5) CO2 emissions - 175 g/km

Unladen weight - 952 kg







ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Our media site – <u>http://media.lotuscars.com</u> is packed with news, eye-catching images, specs, stats, and videos of everything we're up to, from our latest models to our heritage, and cutting-edge engineering developments.

Please join us by registering your details.

About Lotus

Group Lotus plc, wholly-owned subsidiary of DRB-HICOM, is based in Norfolk, UK, and has three operating divisions: Lotus Cars, Lotus Engineering and Lotus Motorsport.

Lotus Cars builds world class, high performance sports cars including the award-winning Evora, the iconic Elise and the stunning Exige.

Lotus Engineering provides comprehensive and versatile consultancy services to many of the world's OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers and is an internationally recognised automotive engineering consultancy. Global facilities include those in the US, China and an office in Japan. Lotus is a global high-tech company, committed to driving forward technology for both Lotus Cars and its Engineering clients, spearheading research into such areas as hybrids, electric vehicles and renewable fuels.

Lotus Motorsport builds and develops vehicles for GT racing with the Evora GX, GTC, GT4, and GTS, in addition to racing vehicles such as the Exige V6 Cup, Exige Cup R and Elise Cup cars. PETRONAS is the Official Lubricants Partner for Lotus Racing vehicles competing in various high profile international GT categories. Lotus also competes in F1® with the Lotus F1 Team, racing in the iconic Black and Gold Livery.

Lotus Licensing & Merchandising Group Lotus currently holds licensing agreements with companies including Microsoft, Sony, Ubisoft, and Gameloft for electronic entertainment and Scalextric, Corgi, Spark, Mattel for scale model and slot cars. Being the master licencee for Lotus F1® Team, Group Lotus has the opportunity to broaden its licensing range with companies including Trunki, (Children's suitcase manufacturers), Paintseal (Car cleaning products) Henry Lloyd (a premium F1® inspired sport clothing capsule collection) and Paul's Model Art (collectible scale model cars).



Lotus Originals is Lotus' home brand for its own labelled merchandise. The items in the range are retailed via the Lotus flagship store in London's Regent Street, as well as at Lotus' Headquarters and selected dealerships. All outlets carry a diverse collection of premium apparel, luggage, accessories and gifts, including the Lotus F1® Team replica collection.

Lotus F1[®] Team Based in central England, the team first entered the Formula 1 World Championship in 1981 under the Toleman name, undergoing subsequent evolutions as Benetton, Renault, Lotus Renault GP and now Lotus F1 Team.

With four Drivers' and three Constructors' World Championships collected along the way, Lotus F1 Team has been home to some of the greatest drivers in history; legendary men such as Ayrton Senna, Michael Schumacher, and Fernando Alonso to name but a few.

2014 marks a new era for Formula 1; changes introduced by the FIA are the most radical in the history of the sport. Lotus F1 Team drivers Romain Grosjean and Pastor Maldonado are ready for the challenge that lies ahead and for what will be an immensely exciting season.

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