



Motul x McLaren Racing: From milliseconds in Formula 1 to thousands of kilometers in endurance racing

Behind the scenes of performance, fluids play a decisive role. It is on this invisible yet strategic ground that Motul and McLaren Racing are strengthening their collaboration.

For more than ten years, through multiple GT3 collaborations, Motul and McLaren have learned working together and building a relationship of trust, driven by Motul's ability to develop bespoke technical solutions.

This collaboration is now reaching a new milestone with a long-term partnership covering the two pinnacle disciplines of speed and endurance racing:

- **Formula 1**, where Motul has been supplying the lubricant for the MCL40's gearbox and differential since the start of the 2026 season;
- **World Endurance Championship (WEC)**, where Motul will supply the engine and transmission lubricants for the Hypercar set to debut from the 2027 season.

Between the milliseconds of Formula 1 and the thousands of kilometers of endurance racing, the Motul-McLaren Racing partnership tells a single story: one of performance built on precision, proven on track, and grounded in a shared culture of excellence.

Formula 1 – creating a unique formulation that helps gain milliseconds

With the McLaren Mastercard F1 Team, Motul returns to Formula 1, a discipline where the brand has already written several chapters of its history as a technical partner to leading teams.

For a fluids champion like Motul, being present in Formula 1 represents the ultimate recognition of its excellence. It is in this discipline—where excellence is required at every level and where performance is measured in milliseconds—that an ultra-high-performance fluid can make the difference.

High loads, extreme speeds, intense temperatures: the transmission of a Formula 1 car demands a level of precision rarely visible to the eyes of the general public, yet decisive for engineers.

With a DNA deeply rooted in competition, Motul has been designing ultra-high-performance fluids for ultra-high-performance teams for decades.

During nine months, Motul R&D teams in France and Japan worked alongside McLaren to develop a bespoke formulation. More than 40 tests were conducted: pre-selection phases, tribological testing, material compatibility assessments, and final validations at the McLaren Technology Centre in Woking. The result: a unique lubricant, specifically designed for the gearbox and differential of the MCL40.

Pushing beyond the limits of traditional transmission oils, this lubricant is unique within the ecosystem and plays a key role in **optimizing mechanical efficiency and transmission system reliability**.



It has been designed to meet five critical Formula 1 requirements and challenges:

- **reduce stress and friction** on mechanical components within the gearbox;
- operate across an **extremely wide range of temperatures**;
- **ensure full transmission performance** throughout Grand Prix conditions over the season, including under high gearbox pressures;
- **deliver performance** beyond the distance covered during a Grand Prix;
- guarantee both **performance** (friction reduction) and **durability** (mechanical protection).

"McLaren was already using a very high-performance transmission fluid, with an extremely high level of requirements. Our challenge was to go even further: decrease friction losses even more, while ensuring lubricant durability over time. The formulation developed with McLaren Racing has been validated to maintain its performance over several thousand kilometers under Formula 1 conditions. And this is only the beginning: in F1, cars are constantly evolving, and the formulation will continue to progress as well," said **Julien Plet, Head of R&D at Motul**.

Endurance racing: proving product performance over thousands of kilometers

Alongside the millisecond-perfect performance of racing in Formula 1 stands the uncompromising durability of endurance racing, where success is defined not only by speed, but by reliability sustained over hours of competition. In the World Endurance Championship, Motul will support McLaren Racing across the engine and transmission lubricants for its Hypercar, set to enter competition from 2027.

These fluids come from Motul racing range, including 300V, which has become a benchmark for many endurance teams.

"If our products can withstand conditions as demanding as those faced by the top racing teams, we know they meet the highest standards of quality and reliability. These are the very same products we offer to our customers. This has been part of our promise to them for decades: greater protection, endurance, and long-term reliability," (**Julien Plet, Head of R&D at Motul**)

Beyond fluids, Motul supports McLaren in the WEC with its Racing Lab. This mobile laboratory is a true on-the-move scientific workshop, equipped with high-tech instruments to analyze all fluid samples based on precise criteria: wear (metal particles), oxidation and thermal stability (oil condition), and fuel dilution (oil/engine degradation). This predictive maintenance approach, implemented by Motul since 2019, enables teams to adjust their settings in real time while simultaneously feeding directly into product development.

A partnership grounded in both technology and shared culture

Beyond fluids supplying, the partnership is built on a shared approach to performance. Backed by a strong racing heritage and driven by the same pursuit of excellence, Motul and McLaren Racing share key values: ingenuity, boldness, and collaborative spirit. Beyond the technical dimension, their partnership is rooted in a shared performance culture, intended to bring teams together and drive sustained engagement.

Motul and Le Mans: a laboratory for technological performance

The 24 Hours of Le Mans holds a unique place in Motul strategy: a large-scale laboratory, a strategic pillar, and a symbol of longevity. Since the 1950s, the Group has established itself as a key player in endurance racing, driven by its ability to turn constraints into innovation.

From the Circuit de la Sarthe to global leading endurance events, Motul has built a consistent ecosystem where performance, reliability, and R&D feed into one another continuously. At Le Mans, Motul supports all major endurance categories—LMGT3, LMP2, and Hypercar—through technical partnerships that provide its products with a true full-scale testing environment. The brand supports several leading teams by supplying cutting-edge lubricants, while ensuring continuous technical monitoring and performance optimization throughout the season.

Motul is an official partner of the FIA World Endurance Championship races, benefiting from strong brand visibility and offering hospitality services to high-profile guests.

Over the decades, this relationship has evolved from a simple advertising presence to a technical partnership, ultimately becoming the Official Lubricant Partner of the FIA World Endurance Championship and the 24 Hours of Le Mans. This long-standing relationship goes beyond competition: it enables Motul to validate its fluids under extreme conditions before integrating them into its consumer and industrial product ranges.

A history spanning more than 70 years

- 1923 → Creation of the 24 Hours of Le Mans, a full-scale testing ground for the automobile
- 1954 → Motul's first presence at Le Mans
- 1968–1972 → Launch of direct sponsorship and structuring of technical partnerships
- Since 1972 → 250 competitors and 30 brands supported to date
- 1978 → Expansion to motorcycle endurance (24 Heures Motos)
- 2016–2029 → Official Lubricant Partnership (Le Mans & FIA WEC)
- 2022 → Naming of the Motul Raccordement Corner
- September 2025 → Partnership announcement with McLaren Racing for Formula 1
- January 2026 → Partnership announcement with McLaren Racing for endurance racing

About Motul:

For more than 170 years, Motul has specialized in the formulation, production, and distribution of premium lubricants in 160 countries, designed to optimize performance across a wide range of applications: motorsport, passenger cars, trucks, and industrial use.

A pioneer in the development of synthetic oils, Motul launched its iconic 300V product—the first 100% synthetic multigrade lubricant—in 1971. Building on this unique expertise, Motul today extends its capabilities to maintenance products for cars, motorcycles, and bicycles, as well as next-generation fluids for thermal management of electric vehicle batteries and digital infrastructure such as data centers, addressing future challenges in performance and sustainability.



From the outset, Motul made a defining choice that has shaped its business model over the long term: to use competition as a real-world laboratory. Solutions are tested, refined, and validated under extreme conditions, with a view to direct transfer into consumer and industrial applications. This hands-on approach is reflected in Motul's presence at the highest level of global motorsport: endurance racing with the FIA WEC and the 24 Hours of Le Mans, speed racing with MotoGP, Superbike, and Formula 1, rally-raid with the Dakar, off-road with MXGP and Enduro GP, and cycling with the Tour de France and the UCI Mountain Bike World Series. In each of these disciplines, Motul develops technical partnerships with leading teams.

[Motul – Official Website](#)

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