



Honda's Aussie Chance

AUSSIE RACING CARS

THIS could be the next Aussie Racing Car to hit the track.

Honda Australia is considering an entry in the popular Aussie Racing Car category, using its Euro model as the base style.

Phil Ward and his Aussie Racing Car team have submitted the proposal to Honda, which includes the use of a Honda Blackbird engine, which is the powerplant used in the CBR1100XX Super Blackbird.

The Blackbird packs 153 horsepower in stock form, approximately 23hp more than the Yamaha engine which is, to date, the control engine of the class. The Honda also packs a six-speed gearbox, one more than that Yamaha.

Honda is said to be seriously considering the entry into the class, but only if the Japanese manufacturer can use its own powerplant. While the Blackbird is more powerful, Ward says that restrictors would be used to ensure that parity is achieved in the controlled class.

"We've done all of our submissions based on using



Honda engine," Ward told eNews.

"All the preliminary tests complete. The advantage I can see is that the Hondas would have their own character. They would sound different to the Yamahas, but their performance will be equalised with our regular parity systems. "Getting parity wouldn't be problem. We would run different restrictors in the car, just like we do in the Toyotas."

The Honda Euro-styled body has been designed in-house by Aussie Racing Cars using the latest CAD designs. As the drawing above shows, the Euro has been given a DTM-flavour,

with flared guards and box-style side skirts to ensure that if it ever hits the race track, it will have a unique appearance in the market.

"It looks pretty fat," Ward said.

"We've given it a DTM flavour just to give it a unique look.

"Manufacturers see Aussie Racing Cars as a cost effective alternative to any other form of motorsport. They can promote their product in a myriad of different ways.

"We're actually talking to other manufacturers as well, and to have Honda involved would just be another endorsement of the Aussie Racing Car product as a serious

player in the Australian motor racing scene.

"In this tight economic climate, a car can be campaigned for a season for the cost of a city-based newspaper advert campaign! It makes sense for them to consider it."

If the Honda does decide to join the pint-sized Aussie Racing Car fray, it would make its debut for the start of the 2009 season.

And if Honda does join, it will start re-ignite the famous 'Honda versus Toyota' battle that has raged in Japan since the pair started racing cars.

– GRANT ROWLEY