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Invited Talk
Technology Transfer in Motorsport

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Abstract

Innovation in motorsport has always been heavily influenced by advancements from within and outside the sport, and this cross-pollination has had a significant impact on both the development of new technologies and the improvement of safety, performance, and efficiency in racing. Flexible Bladder Fuel tanks are one of them that are used in Formula 1, Rallies, and other track racing championships. This exchange of technology comes from aviation and has so far been one of the best safety equipment for carrying fuel in high-risk sports. M.E.R. in SRL has been a key global producer of flexible rubber tanks since 1994. Technologically advanced and highly innovative flexible and durable fuel tanks for modern-day utilizations are manufactured in-house as per requirements. Motorsports have been a key area that M.E.R. in SRL dominates. The concept of flexible fuel storage dates back to World War II. At that time, there was a need for fuel tanks that could be lighter and more adaptable than traditional rigid tanks, especially for military vehicles, aircraft, and other machinery. The goal was to create a tank that could be easily deployed, could expand or contract, and was durable enough for various environments. During World War II, the military required flexible, portable, and robust fuel storage solutions for vehicles, aircraft, and even ships. The U.S. military, in particular, began to develop "flexible fuel bladders" as an alternative to metal tanks. These rubber-based tanks were lightweight, and their design allowed them to be rolled or folded when not in use, making them easier to transport and deploy. The rubber materials used were often reinforced with fabric to enhance durability. Present Days Commercial Use: Flexible rubber fuel tanks started being used in civilian industries, including in aviation, motorsports, power, and the naval sector. For example, in aviation, flexible rubber fuel tanks are used in smaller aircraft and helicopters where weight and space constraints are significant. In modern applications, it's used in Civil and Military Drones more and more. The technology has also taken a big leap with the integration of the Self Sealing Technology that gives the Military and Security applications an upper hand in challenging - war and ambush situations.

About the Speaker

Mr. Samit Satish Naik is a Mumbai-Alibag based entrepreneur, director of foreign companies. He assists Italian small and medium-sized enterprises in navigating the Indian market. His expertise lies in bridging cultural and operational gaps between European and Indian business practices jointly working with his partner in business Riccardo Paterni, facilitating smoother market entry and expansion for his clients. His contributions to the business community have been recognized with accolades such as the Indian Achievers' Award in 2022, underscoring his impact and dedication to promoting international business collaborations.

