

BLACK SEA RACETRACK

A Soviet-era race circuit in Georgia is being remodeled for the 21st century. **Rustavi International Motorpark** aims to become a leisure destination and attract European series

Rustavi International Motorpark is the second racetrack project from the group of engineers led by Shota Abkhazava, a businessman, racing driver, and race car designer.

Six years ago, the group designed the first racetrack in the Moscow region, ADM

Track spec

Raceway. Abkhazava has invested several million dollars into the project and it is now a profitable business. More than that, it is still the only

professional motorpark in the Moscow area. In Georgia, which has progressed in the 'Doing

Business' rating to 11th place in

"THE GROUP IS GOING TO ESTABLISH TWO NEW NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS BASED ON AMERICAN LEGENDS CARS AND FORMULA ALFA SINGLE-SEATERS"

Length:
Minimum width:
Maximum width:
Length of start-finish straight:
Direction:counterclockwise
Maximum longitudinal rise:
Maximum longitudinal fall:
Minimum lateral slope:1.75%
Maximum lateral slope:
Turns:7 left, 5 right
Grandstand capacity at the first
stage of operation:2,000 seated, 5,000 standing
Number of pits:
Size of pit garage:6 x 14m
Maximum speed estimation for GP2 car:
Size of pit garage:

the world, the group is planning an even more successful venture. An old Soviet raceway located in Rustavi, 25km (15.5 miles) from the country's capital, Tbilisi, was built in 1978. Now it is under total reconstruction with important configuration changes.

Construction work is progressing quickly, with only the top layer of asphalt left to do at time of going to press. Abkhazava's group is aiming to host the first race before the end of the 2011 season.

Rustavi, with its warm weather and lots of tourist attractions nearby, is well placed to become



Artists impressions of the finished facility at Rustavi (left, above) and an aerial view of the site (below). The track surface is almost ready



the favorite venue for race drivers and fans all around the Black Sea region, including from close neighbors such as Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Greece. The new racetrack will conform to FIA Grade 2, and the intention is to attract one or two European race series every year.

Along with the racetrack's construction, Abkhazava's group is going to establish two new national championships, which will be based on American Legends cars and Russianmade, 2-liter single seaters (Formula Alfa). Unlike the Moscow ADM Raceway business model, which is mainly orientated toward car dealerships and corporations. for Rustavi International Motorpark the group has chosen to follow US sports marketing principles. The venue has to be fan-friendly, with a well-developed recreation zone with lots of facilities, including a concert stage, concessions, restaurants, and even a firing range. <

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