

Note: This press release was prepared for Texas Instruments for international distribution (March 1997).

Competitive Indoor Kart Racing Wins Big With Texas Instruments TIRIS™

Mechanics zip around the pit. Drivers slap on overalls, gloves, face protectors, and helmets. Tires squeal. The fans, impatient for the start of the race, cheer as the flags go down and the light turns green to signal the start of the qualification lap.

The race is on BUT in a qualification lap it's each driver against the clock—not driver against driver. Accurately establishing the best lap time for each driver is a tricky business. Distinguishing the cars and drivers as they pass the pole position and calibrating each competitor's lap to the hundredth second is difficult and almost impossible to get 100% accuracy by relying solely on the naked eye.

That's why Formula One Grand Prix Indoor Kart Racing started using Texas Instruments TIRIS™ technology to time each driver.

An underground antenna at the starting line registers the ID and time of each kart as it passes over the antenna. A transponder is mounted under the seat of each kart. Data stored in the transponder includes the number of the kart and the driver's name. This data is sent to a centralized computer. Because the system accurately records data immediately, each driver gets a complete performance report at the end of each race.

According to Antonio Ari Gomes, director of the Grand Prix Kart Indoor in São Caetano do Sul, São Paulo, two things are equally important to the drivers : the choice of the car and the final performance report. He adds, "Without a system like this, kart indoor racing would be dead."

At the Grand Prix Kart Indoor, the record on the 250m circuit is 19.5 seconds for drivers over 12 years old. Thanks to TIRIS' reliability, the racing director can make decisions more easily. Without delays from recording results and adjudicating contentions, the thrill of the race is not diluted. It's easy to understand why kart indoor racing is a quickly growing entertainment in Brazil.

For more information call TI Brazil, Phone: +55-11-535-5133,
FAX: +55-11-533-0544.

#