

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

25th JULY 2008

MOTORSPORT INDUSTRY HONOURS PROFESSOR SID WATKINS FOR HIS CONTRIBUTION TO SAFETY IN MOTORSPORT

“Prof” was on Monday night presented with the Motorsport Industry Association’s (MIA) personal Award for the *Most Outstanding Contribution to the Motorsport Industry*. The Award was presented by Martin Brundle, F1 TV Commentator and former F1 driver, at the MIA’s annual summer reception at the House of Lords.

Professor Sid Watkins, MD, FRCS, OBE joins a highly impressive list of previous winners, including Lord March, Sir Frank Williams CBE, Sir Stirling Moss OBE and Sir Jackie Stewart OBE, as well as Tom Wheatcroft, David Richards CBE and Bernie Ecclestone amongst others.

“The powerful and positive image which Motorsport now portrays to the outside world is far safer than the one Sid first witnessed in 1961.

Motorsport is now seen as setting the highest safety standards. This reputation greatly benefits our industry and has created substantial business in safety systems and products, such as seat belts, helmets, neck safety harnesses, fire safety and such like. Much of the credit belongs to ‘Prof’ as he is known to many” said the MIA’s CEO, Chris Aylett.

” No grand prix driver has died on the track in fourteen years, despite cars lapping faster than ever. Sid’s contribution to improving the standards of safety and medical intervention throughout motor sport is simply unprecedented” said Peter Digby of Xtrac and MIA Chairman.

Sid Watkins is President of the FIA Institute for Motor Sport Safety. He served twenty-six years as the FIA Formula One Safety and Medical Delegate, and was head of the Formula One on-track medical team, the first responder to a crash scene.

Watkins first became involved with motorsport, in a medical capacity, in 1961 at Brands Hatch and Silverstone and joined the RAC medical panel in 1970. Eight years later Bernie Ecclestone asked him to become the F1 race doctor where he immediately demanded better safety equipment



**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**MIA
Federation House
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire
CV8 2RF**

**TELEPHONE
+44(0) 2476 692600**

**FAX
+44(0) 2476 692601**

**EMAIL
info@the-mia.com**

**VISIT
www.the-mia.com**

motorsportresearch.com

including an anesthetist, a medical car and a medical helicopter. All were provided, as was a medical car so Watkins could follow the cars for the first lap and provide help in the event of a first lap incident.

The FIA has recognized Watkins as being largely responsible for the modernization of medical standards in Formula One, and for saving many lives including Didier Pironi (1982), Rubens Barrichello (1994) and Mika Hakkinen at the 1995 Australian Grand Prix, by restarting his heart twice and performing a tracheotomy at the side of the track.

Following the deaths of Roland Ratzenberger and Ayrton Senna in 1994, the FIA Expert Advisory Safety Committee was set up with Watkins as Chairman. He set up a rally and karting research group in 2003 and the three were brought together in 2004 as the FIA Institute for Motor Sport Safety, with Watkins as President.

In 2002, Watkins was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

The MIA's Summer Reception, hosted by MIA President Lord Astor of Haver, is regarded as the most prestigious social gathering on the international motorsport business calendar. The 2008 reception was attended by over 300 guests, including peers of the realm, Ministers of State and Ambassadors, MPs, VIPs and MIA members from the motorsport industry across the globe.

For further information, please contact Jayne Thomas on 02476 692600 or email jayne.thomas@the-mia

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Motorsport Industry Association (MIA) is the leading trade association for Motorsport's performance engineering, services and tuning industry. It represents the specialised needs of this highly successful Industry which, although extending throughout the world and rapidly expanding in the developing nations, is centred here in the UK.

The MIA Membership displays a wide demographic spread, including; Motorsport and Performance Engineering companies, race and rally teams, governing bodies, motorsport services, research organisations, race circuits and universities and colleges.



**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**PRESS
RELEASE**

MIA
Federation House
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire
CV8 2RF

TELEPHONE
+44(0) 2476 692600

FAX
+44(0) 2476 692601

EMAIL
info@the-mia.com

VISIT
www.the-mia.com

motorsportresearch.com