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Renault Still Struggling with Formula 1 Power

By: Cyril Nikitenko – Feature Writer

Renault Sport F1 got through yet another four tough days of Formula 1 winter testing in Bahrain last week; this was the final official session before the season starts in Melbourne (Australian Grand Prix) on March 14. Reigning world champions Red Bull Racing stayed at Sakhir track on Monday for their filming day worth completing approximately 100 kms, thus allowing Renault to collect some more valuable information about its troubled 2014 power unit.

Rob White, Renault Sport F1 deputy managing director, claimed the French company "made some real progress".

He also added: "We have started to converge on a configuration of car that is more like when we have run the engine back on the dynos in Viry. We've increased the level of performance at which the PU can be operated, and we've made strides in terms of how energy is managed round the circuit. Additionally we have made some headway on troubleshooting our control systems."

Renault managed to prepare a little bit "of everything, with simulations of qualifying sessions, starts, race distances and long stints".

However, Rob White admitted that RSF1 "must progress further on the torque delivery of the PU felt by the drivers", which "will include software and calibration work, with simulator and dyno and validation".

A lot of people in the paddock believe Renault-powered cars won't get to the finish line in Melbourne.

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