

MCN EXCLUSIVE

Ecosse Spirit ES1 to make public debut at MCN London show

**MCN LONDON
MOTORCYCLE
SHOW**
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Be among the first to see the prototype of the new British-designed superbike at the ExCeL London Motorcycle Show

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THE full-scale prototype of the incredible Ecosse Spirit ES1 superbike is set to star at the MCN London Motorcycle Show from January 31 to February 3.

This will be the first time the bike has been on show to the general public anywhere in the world. The full-scale model, developed to test the bike's radical riding position and aerodynamics, was first revealed at the Laguna Seca MotoGP last year, but only a limited number of VIP visi-

tors got the chance to see it for real.

Following its debut at Laguna, the full-scale model has been in Norway, at the base of industrial designer Bard Eker, one of the men behind the Koenigsegg supercar, where the machine is being developed into a working prototype. But it has been shipped to the UK specially to make an appearance at the London show.

Designed by Formula One engineers Dick Glover and Andy Le Fleming, the Ecosse Spirit ES1 is a joint effort between them and American

manufacturer Ecosse Moto Works, builder of the high-end Heretic V-twin custom cafe-racer. It's scheduled to begin testing this year, and move on to selling the machines to wealthy enthusiasts during 2009 or 2010.

The entire bike is developed around a new aerodynamic concept, with a very slim cross-section where the rider sits, allowing his legs to be much closer together than on a conventional bike. The result is a huge reduction in the frontal area of the bike, giving a massive increase in perform-

ance thanks to better aerodynamics.

Although details of the engine are still secret, the bike is set to use a 1000cc four-cylinder motor, developed specifically for the project. Computer simulations suggest that with a conservative 170bhp, the bike will be capable of a 220mph top speed thanks to the slippery aerodynamics. However, the final production machines are likely to offer nearer to 200bhp and as much as 240mph!

The new riding position has meant a complete rethink in the entire design of the bike. The swingarm houses two chains internally, with the drive from the engine running down the centre of the swingarm before being transferred to one side to allow the second chain to clear the rear tyre. It's this design that allows the rider's

feet to be just inches apart. There's no frame, with the front and rear suspension mounted directly to the engine, and the use of carbon fibre for all the major suspension components including the entire swingarm, means the bike's weight is massively reduced, with a total target weight of around 120kg.

At the moment, the firm is in negotiations with potential financial partners to move the project along to the stage of a running prototype and production. We'll bring you all the latest updates as they happen.

'Production machines are likely to offer 200bhp'

WHAT ELSE IS AT THE SHOW?

EUROPEAN Stunt Riding Champion AC Farias will be dazzling showgoers with his incredible riding skills in the Carole Nash Live Action Arena.

Joining the Brazilian ace will be the UK FMX team and their breathtaking aerial freestyle motocross antics. Visitors will see something a little special from them, as they attempt a full backflip with a trick thrown in for good measure.

Comedy rider Zoltan Angel will also make a return.

Tickets, available from www.londonmotorcycleshow.com or 0870-730-0049, cost £14 in advance or £18 on the door.



The Spirit ES1's unique cross section keeps the rider's legs and feet much closer together, significantly reducing the front area of the bike