

AUSSIES EDUCATE FIM

Three Australians launched an innovative rider training tool at the 2007 FIM Rider Training Symposium held in Frankfurt, Germany on 30-31 June.

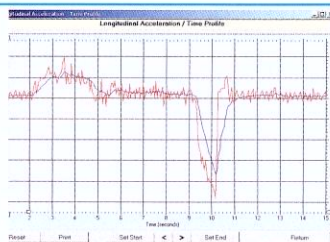
The Motorcycle Operator Training Assessor (MOTA) is an electronic training tool developed in Australia by rider trainers Rob Smith and Michael Stafford and design engineer John McIver.

The unit is attached to the motorcycle and through inertial

sensors records reaction times, acceleration, braking force, swerve force and lean angles.

"So far, the ability to measure and record an individual's skill has been almost entirely reliant on an instructor's subjective appraisal," said Smith. "Now operator variation has been completely removed using high-tech solutions."

The MOTA records the rider's ability to match speed, lean



angle, swerving and braking reaction times to the instructor's predetermined settings.

According to Smith, the system has gained huge interest from the European Union, Canada, Greece and the UK.

PRIDE 'N' JOY

The inaugural Australian Custom Bike Championships will be run in conjunction with the Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney motorcycle shows to be held later this year.

Separated into two divisions, participants can enter their customised motorcycles in either the cruiser division

or the sports-performance division and will go into contention to win both the state and national titles.

A panel of three judges representing the custom paintwork, photography and engineering industries will be present at all three shows to decide the state champion. The

national champion from each division will be decided at the final show in Sydney held on 2-4 November, 2007.

The championship is open to bike builders across Australia. If you wish to enter or need more information call Cliff on 0407 464 084 or email cliff@triumphmotorcycles.com.au.



USB ENGINE

Japanese company Sound Alliance has released a USB hub in the shape of a Triumph parallel twin engine. It fires into life when you plug it into your PC and changes gears via a working gear lever. Check it out on YouTube by searching under USB engine hub.

OWN SQUIGGLE'S TOY

Garry McCoy's Shell Advance 500 GP bike was up for sale on ebay. Bidding started at US\$100 on 3 June and reached at least US\$50,000 with the reserve still not met. It had a buy now price of US\$120,000 (A\$153,000) and attracted over 10,000 hits before it was withdrawn.

SENSE PREVAILS

The private members bill put forward by British MP Graham Stringer that would have seen a compulsory, retrospective registration of all non-roadgoing motorcycles (Vol 56 No 19) has been withdrawn. Jim Fitzpatrick, the parliamentary under-secretary of state for transport, said the bill "was like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut."

KNOW IT ALL?

So you think you've a fairly sound idea about what goes into manufacturing a motorcycle? A short and informative video on YouTube takes you through the Hinkley-based Triumph factory for a detailed and entertaining look at what goes into manufacturing the Rocket III. Search under Triumph Rocket III on YouTube. We bet you'll be amazed.

LAMS IN, BLACKSPOTS OUT FOR VICTORIA

Motorcycles have been on the agenda for the Victorian Ministry for Roads and Ports recently, with two announcements of initiatives that will see improvements for the state's motorcyclists within the next 12 months.

The Roads and Ports Minister, Tim Pallas, has announced that the Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS) will be introduced in Victoria on 1 July, 2008, and revealed that \$2m of motorcycle

safety levy funds will be used to fund the improvement of eight motorcycle black spot areas.

"We've got a Minister who is actually listening to rider representative groups and acting on our personal requests," said the president of the Motorcycle Riders Association, Dale Maggs.

The LAMS scheme, already implemented in NSW, SA and Tasmania, will see learner and probationary licence holders no

longer restricted to the 260cc capacity of the current system.

Under the scheme, learner and probationary riders may ride bikes up to 660cc in capacity with a maximum power-to-weight ratio of 150kW per tonne.

"Current regulations don't reflect the performance abilities and safety mechanisms of today's motorcycles," said Pallas.

The Minister also revealed that a recent evaluation of 51 sites

treated under the motorcycle black spot program has achieved a 38 per cent reduction in crashes and casualties.

"Since 2002 we have committed about \$11.6m to improve riding conditions, but we know more needs to be done to improve safety for all road users," he said.

A further \$2m will be spent on high-risk sections of road and intersections where motorcyclists experience a high crash rate.