

- Details reported by Patti Engineering Director of Business Development, Rick Schoonover
- The F1 car photos are courtesy of Greg Salicki of Burns Controls – Thanks Greg!



Patti Engineering accomplishes great engineering feats through teamwork, and where better to witness teamwork than at the recent F1 Race in Austin. F1 Teams can change all four tires on a modern F1 Car in less than four seconds! Engineering a control system obviously takes longer, but the teamwork concept is always essential to the success of the project.

Patti Engineering organized a group of clients, potential clients and partners to attend the inaugural F1 Races in Austin, TX. A good time was had by all! Some of the Patti Engineering guests in attendance included Ernest Roland and Marcia Gadbois of Indusoft, John Dodge of AWC, Lee Riemenschneider of Phoenix Contact, Greg Salicki of Burns Controls, Fred Former of Interroll Conveyor, and Tony Vega of CH2M Hill. The Patti Engineering hosts included Rick Schoonover, Steve Palmgren, Dave Malkan, Wayne Hachenberg, and Nick Hitchcock.



The Austin F1 Race was won by Lewis Hamilton driving the McLaren Mercedes car. Hamilton has won back-to-back races in the United States – but they came five years apart after the Englishman took victory for McLaren Mercedes in the inaugural United States Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Americas. Starting from the front row of the 24-car grid, Hamilton, 27, passed pole-winner, and eventual 3-time World Champion, Sebastian Vettel's Red Bull on lap 42 of 56 with a clean move at the end of the DRS (Drag Reduction System) zone into Turn 12.

The Patti Engineering contingent was sitting in Turn 11, just after the DRS detection zone. There was quite a bit of passing coming into the tight hairpin Turn 11, as well as, at the end of the back straight into Turn 12. In Formula 1, when two cars are within one second at the DRS detection point, the trailing driver is allowed to open the car's rear wing to reduce its drag (remember, DRS = Drag Reduction System) thus making for more exciting racing and more passing. In F1, as in business, the best defense is a strong offense. At Patti Engineering we always strive to do a superior job on our client's controls engineering assignments so that no one is ever "within one-second of us"!



Patti Engineering stresses working smart and playing fun. Our team gets the job done and still has time to enjoy the finer things in life – like watching the highest performance road cars in the world perform in front of a sellout crowd in beautiful Austin, TX. Patti Engineering opened their Texas office in Austin just over two years ago and has already grown it to include a full-time business developer, four full-time engineers and many 'as needed' engineers on loan from our Michigan headquarters.

All in all, watching the highest performance road race cars in the world compete in Austin TX was a very fitting endeavor for the highest performance controls engineering team in Texas.