TTXGP – speeds of 150mph are attainable

12 June 2009, Douglas, Isle of Man

RAUL Aguilar Inarritu, the Mexican-born racing engineer behind the California-designed and built Electric Motorsport entry that local man Chris Heath rode to victory in the Open class of the inaugural TTXGP last Friday, is confident that similar bikes will easily attain speeds of 150mph and complete multiple laps of the Mountain Course within four years.

'Four years ago not one of the machines that completed the event today would have got round a lap of the TT Course, but I confidently predict massive improvements in speed and distance by 2013,' said a thrilled and somewhat emotional Inarritu after his rider was reinstated following a brief exclusion for an alleged infringement of regulations.

Attending the world's first emissions-free GP with his fellow team owners Todd Kollin and Martin Guerra, Inarritu revealed that the machine used was a modified version of a production motorcycle that can now be purchased over the counter.

'We are the first company to produce an electric-powered bike that can be bought. We have already shipped 200 — the biggest production by far,' he said.

'These are proper motorcycles, fully approved and legal for use on the freeway. We are currently in the process of undergoing further tests to enable us to expand into the EU community with affordable machines that would provide mass appeal across Europe.

'The starting price for machines loosely based on the one Chris raced here is $8,500 and we hope to have them available across the EU by late summer.

'Speeds of 150mph and more will be attainable quite soon, but the battery technology is not quite there yet. The bike's actual motor is the least of our problems and the battery development is gradually evolving.

'I must admit to being quite emotional. The winner today was new technology every bit as much as the efforts of the TTXGP organisers, the riders, technicians and team owners.

'Personally, the triumph was to see Chris cruising down to complete this pioneering lap at a very decent speed.'

Heath, a 39-year-old IT sales manager from Baldrine, is a TT regular of considerable experience. He averaged a speed of 66mph for the single lap of the course to win his class by 2 minutes 5.7s sec.

The winning AGNI machine in the Pro class, ridden by Rob Barber, averaged more than 87mph but carried twice the number of batteries.

WINNING DESIGNER: Raul Aguilar Inarritu

'This event has vanquished the sceptics,' continued Inarritu. 'The technology is on its way to fulfilling all of the promises that people expect of the TT.

'It clearly gave the fans something to cheer about.'

Wearing a shirt bearing the word 'Native' in similar script to the Norton logo, Inarritu explained that Friday's TTXGP provided the launch day of his Oakland based company's new brand labelled Native (homeland).

'The newly badged product basically encompasses electronic technology, parts and whole vehicles for sports and general transportation.'

The Electric Motorsport team also had an entry for the Pro class, but according to the designer the bike did not ship in time. He promises that they will have an entry for the class when TTXGP allegedly returns to the Island for the 2010 Manx Grand Prix.

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