



Wesley students James Downey, Luke Edwards and Ben Luo with MPs Steve Irons and Frank Alban at the launch of the F1 Schools Technology Challenge. *Picture: Matthew Poon*

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Minature F1 cars from the skills of student designers

SCALED-down versions of Formula One vehicles that can reach speeds of up to 100km/h will be built by school students as part of the F1 in Schools Technology Challenge.

The challenge, which will involve two million students across 25 countries, launched its WA campaign at Polytechnic West's Midland campus last week.

Students will use 3D computer software to design their miniature F1 machines.

Polytechnic West, Swan Chamber of Commerce, Midland Redevelopment Authority, the City of Swan, WesTrac and the Re-Engineering Australia Foundation supports the challenge.

REA WA Steering Committee chairman Arun D'Souza said the program gave students access to programs used under best practice standards in the industry.

"The students will design, manufacture and test their vehicles using the processes used in the industry," he said.

Mr D'Souza said the competition imparted skills across a range of subjects, including maths and science, as well as teaching participants life skills such as teamwork.

Winners from last year's WA competition will travel to Melbourne later this month to compete in national finals while students competing in 2010 have until September to finish their vehicles.