

The New York Times

Wheels

The Nuts and Bolts of Whatever Moves You

JUNE 13, 2011, 11:02 AM

Without Fossil Fuel, Two Teams Prepare for Nürburgring 24 Hours

By *PAUL STENQUIST*

Four MotorsA Volkswagen Scirocco will burn a blend of renewable diesel and biodiesel at the Nürburgring. While most racers competing at the [ADAC Nürburgring 24 Hours](#) this month will burn high-octane racing gasoline or conventional diesel, two entrants will run on fuel that may have been used to fry wiener schnitzel.

The race cars, a Volkswagen Scirocco 2.0 TDI fielded by the Four Motors team and an [Audi A4 3.0 TDI Quattro](#) from Tuning Akademie, will be fueled with a blend of 93 percent renewable diesel from recycled food products and 7 percent [biodiesel](#) fuel from oil crops like rapeseed.

The blend is a product of the Neste Oil Corporation of Finland. The renewable diesel component, which is marketed as [NExBTL](#), is produced from a flexible mix of vegetable oils and waste animal fat sourced from the food industry. On its Web site, the manufacturer claims that the fuel can meet the most stringent requirements of vehicle manufacturers and that it is proven to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the product's life in comparison to fossil diesel fuel.

Osmo Kammonen, a Neste senior vice president, said in an e-mail that its blend has been field tested in passenger cars and heavy trucks. "In Finland some 70 cars of different makes have been running on 100 percent NExBTL for over one year now," he wrote. The fuel is being wholesaled to European oil companies, who market it in a variety of blends, he added.

Jochen MerkleThe Team Akademie Audi A4 3.0 TDI Quattro.

In another e-mail, Thomas Hanisch of the Tuning Akademie said that his team tested the 93/7 blend of renewable diesel and biodiesel under racing conditions and on an Audi dynamometer, noting it produced power approximately equal to conventional diesel fuel.

Team Akademie's Audi A4 is powered by Audi's TDI 3-liter V-6 diesel engine, which develops about 276 horsepower on the renewable diesel-biodiesel blend.

The Scirocco, entered by Four Motors, is a purpose-built racecar from [VWMotorsport](#). Powered by a 2-liter TDI diesel, it develops about 237 horsepower and has a claimed top speed of about 150 m.p.h. It will be driven by a team that includes [Smudo](#), a writer and rapper for a German hip-hop group.

Both cars will compete at the Nürburgring in class AT, which is reserved for cars running alternative fuels, from June 23-26.