

The Institution of Agricultural Engineers

Founded 1938 – Incorporated 1960

IAgrE Team Achievement Award

JCB Excavators ‘World’s Fastest Tractor’ Team

Accepted by Project Manager Alex Skittery

JCB has been in the business of manufacturing and selling the JCB Fastrac, the world’s fastest draft tractor in production spec. since 1990. Over the years it has amassed a significant expertise in engineering this type of machine pioneering full suspension, external disc brakes and ABS braking systems to ensure compliance with current road going legislation. It has also been in the diesel engine manufacturing business since 2005 and so also has significant expertise in this area.

Tractor speed record attempts have been made for many years and already holding the land speed record for a diesel engine car (the JCB Dieselmax in 2006) it was a natural move for JCB to challenge the tractor record too.

To do this they took a small number of young graduate and apprentice engineers

away from their day job and gave them a single focus challenge; to break the current record and to record a maximum speed of 150mph in so doing. The average age of the team was around 26 years of age and they were helped with specialist advice from senior members of both the Fastrac and JCB Dieselmax engineering teams.

The result was a vehicle designed with a single purpose in mind encompassing a blend of tractor and other automotive engineering more commonly found on racing cars and trucks. The vehicle was literally hand built to an exceptionally high standard. The execution of the project has been well documented and engaging Guy Martin to drive the tractor brought another level of exposure.

Suffice to say the outcome of the project was successful and the young team involved will have experienced an intensive period of learning skills which will serve them well throughout their professional lives: free thinking, working under time and resource pressure, advanced engineering technology and techniques, team work and meeting deadlines. They are worthy winners of the IAgrE Team Award for 2019.

