

FIA Honours Mercedes World Record



Dr. Michael Kramer receives the special award at FIA Prize Giving gala in Monaco on December 9.

The FIA has given a special award to Mercedes-Benz for its record 100,000 mile drive that took place in Laredo, Texas in May 2005.

The record drive launched the new Mercedes V6 CDI diesel engine, which replaced the previous five and six-cylinder engines in summer 2005. After mounting the new engine in three standard E320 CDI models, drivers covered distances of 100,000 kilometers (average speed: 140.37mph), 50,000 miles (average speed: 140.09mph) and 100,000 miles (average speed: 139.70) in world record time.

This feat was achieved by a team of 30 drivers pushing the cars to their limit 24 hours a day for 30 days. Despite the extreme testing conditions, the vehicles' diesel particulate filters all completed their tests without needing any maintenance.

The award was presented to Dr. Michael Kramer, head of development for the C-Class, CLS-Class and E-Class models, at the FIA Prize Giving gala in Monaco on December 9. Kramer said: "I am very pleased about the award, which I accept on behalf of the young 'Laredo-Go team.' The key to our success was in the team spirit and quality of our products."

FIA President Max Mosley said: "This world record is a great achievement by everybody involved and demonstrates the extraordinary reliability and very high average speed of modern diesel engined cars. I think by this record it is shown how highly developed the Mercedes-Benz diesel technology is."