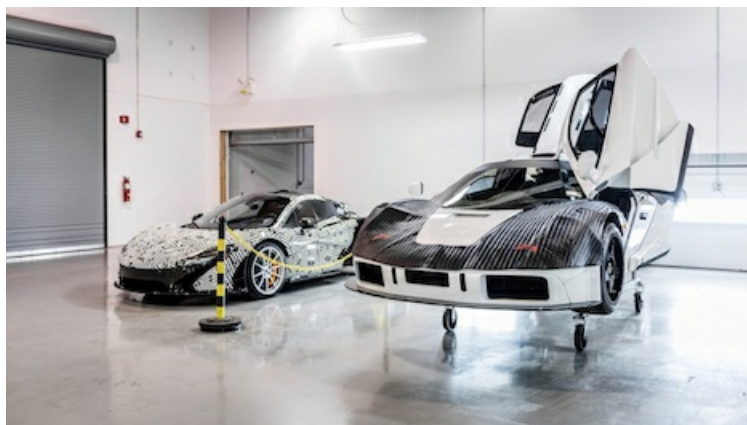


AUTOMOTIVE

McLaren opens first F1 service center in US

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Inside McLaren's F1 service center. Image courtesy of McLaren

By STAFF REPORTS

British automaker McLaren is opening up a service center for its F1s in Pennsylvania.

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The limited-edition model, which was only produced in a run of 106, requires meticulous servicing on an annual basis. Prior to this facility, American owners had to ship their vehicle overseas for maintenance, leaving them without their car for significant amounts of time.

Secret service

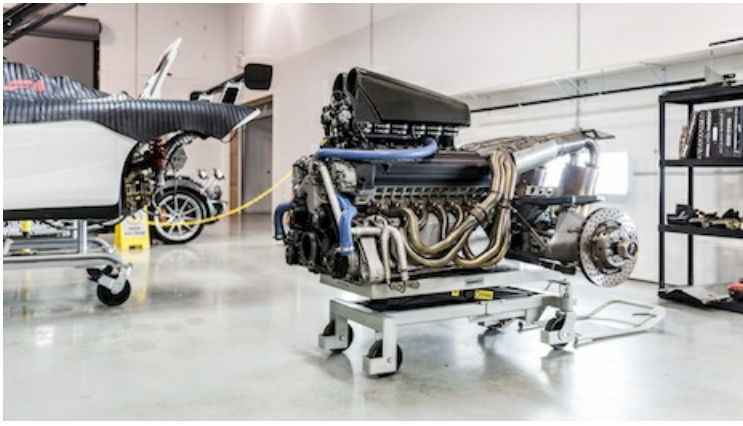
McLaren's F1 service center will be run by its Philadelphia retail facility, but will be located separate from the dealership to provide owners with privacy. This remote center is staffed by technicians trained by members of the McLaren Special Operations (MSO) team from Woking, United Kingdom, allowing them to replicate the services provided at McLaren headquarters.

The F1 was conceived during McLaren's successful 1998 Formula 1 season. The first road car with a carbon fiber chassis, it is the fastest naturally aspirated road car ever made.

No cars were ever officially distributed in the United States, but McLaren estimates that there are more than 20 owners in the country today.

Annually, the F1 undergoes an inspection of its suspension and replacements of fluids, filters and wiper blades. McLaren also tests the vehicle's performance on a track or runway, assessing its driving at high speeds.

Every other year, technicians service and flush the car's brakes, inspect the vehicle's alignment and service the air conditioning and coolant.



McLaren F1s undergo extensive servicing. Image courtesy of McLaren

The F1's fuel tank is replaced every five years, which requires removing the powertrain.

This is McLaren's second F1 service center outside of Woking. Along with this service center, McLaren is planning a second facility for the West Coast.

"The key to servicing and maintaining a McLaren F1 correctly is allowing adequate time for the technician to meticulously check every nut and bolt servicing an F1 is not a quick process," said Tony Joseph, president of McLaren North America, in a statement.

"For North American owners, when you add up the time the actual service takes, with transport time to and from the U.K. it equals a lot of time away from their vehicle," he said. "Having a service center in North America will allow us to drastically cut back on transport time and gives us an authorized facility that prioritizes North American F1s and owners."

McLaren's heritage business has expanded, leading MSO to launch services for models such as the P1 and 650S.

The automaker is also furthering its Track22 business strategy with the upcoming launch of its most track-centric road-legal vehicle in its history.

While a road car, the model will prioritize track performance over regular daily use. This vehicle will not officially be revealed until the first quarter of 2018, McLaren has teased that this release will be part of its Ultimate Series, which is positioned above its Super Series ([see story](#)).