

Next gen racing pony

Ford has unveiled its all new 2022 NASCAR Next Gen Mustang, ready to compete in the NASCAR Cup Series starting in the 2022 season.

The new car, under development for two years, is completely different from its predecessor, redesigned from the ground up. Unlike past versions with the exterior being the only noticeable change, the 2022 model has the future in mind, incorporating flexibility for additional technological advances likely to follow, such as a hybrid or electric powertrain.

The new NASCAR Mustang more closely mirrors its Mustang production counterpart, incorporating much of the same architecture seen in production cars, including rack-and-pinion steering, independent rear suspension, 18-inch tires (with aluminum forged wheels), and a symmetrical exte-



rior shell. The race car now has a wider stance, with its tail and smaller greenhouse volume more closely resembling the production Mustang.

Development of the new car took place at both Ford's Dearborn Development Center in Michigan and the Ford Performance Technical Center in Concord, North Carolina, where Ford's NASCAR scale model and aero teams are located.

Extensive development continues on full-motion simulators at the technical center, where both

racing and production car work takes place.

Mustang came to the NASCAR Cup Series in 2019 and has won at least 10 races in each of its first two years, including a season-high 18 victories in 2020 that helped Ford win the manufacturers' championship.

The NASCAR Next Gen Mustang will make its competition debut on February 20, 2022, during the 64th annual Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway. ■

