

Even Formula 1 teams are turning down the volume

FORMULA 1 teams are in talks about joining an electric racing series to be launched next year.

McLaren is building the electric motors for the cars which, unlike their F1 counterparts, will generate zero emissions and be much quieter.

Alejandro Agag, chief executive of the new

By **CHRISTIAN SYLT**
and **CAROLINE REID**

Formula E, said 'quiet racing' created new opportunities for spectators.

'When the drivers speak to their team, we will put them on speakers so you can actually hear them

during the race,' he said. F1's governing body was asked by the European Commission to set up the series as a way of promoting electric cars, which have so far failed to capture the public's imagination.

Despite repeated attempts to cut F1's high-octane budgets, it still costs an

average of £115 million a year to run a team, whereas outfits in the new Formula E electric series will need to spend only about £3 million.

In most racing series the bulk of expenditure is concentrated on the staff and cars, and spending on both of these areas is restricted in Formula E.

While leading F1 teams employ about 600 people and bring about 40 to each grand prix, Agag said: 'We will allow only eight people per team to the races, excluding the drivers and excluding the management of the motor.'

'In year one, we will buy all the cars from a manufacturer and will lease



PLUGS?: Lewis Hamilton feels the pain of F1 racing

them to the teams at zero cost in exchange for a share of their sponsorship revenue.'