

# LEAD THE CHARGE

One season, your career in pole position

modis



## OUR PEOPLE

# The final lap

3 AUGUST 2021

From over 2000 candidates to three finalists. The campaign “Lead the Charge – One Season, Your Career in Pole Position” where one person will have the chance to work with Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team is reaching the end. Meet the final candidates here.

For the “Lead the Charge – One Season, Your Career in Pole Position” campaign, more than 2000 applicants from 66 countries pursued the opportunity of a lifetime: a chance to work as part of the Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team during the eighth season of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship. The candidates were evaluated for their racing passion, engineering knowledge and communication skills and now on the final three candidates have been selected. The winner will be announced in Berlin on August 14th. Meet our three finalists from which one will be selected for this very unique role: From Great Britain Iqra Hamid, representing the USA Shreyas Ramas, and hailing from Australia, Sam Haines.



## OUR PEOPLE



Iqra Hamid (UK)



Shreyas Ramas (USA)



Sam Haines (AUSTRALIA)

### Tell us about your passion for Formula E?

**IQRA HAMID:** My passion for motorsport stems from a young age, as with most motorsport enthusiasts. I've always loved cars, motorbikes and all things engineering related. What stands out to me most about Formula E is the purpose and incentive driving the championship. Everyone involved wants to contribute to making a real difference in the world we live in and the focus on innovation and engineering development is exciting!

**SHREYAS RAMAS:** I discovered Formula E a few years ago, when one of my childhood heroes, Felipe Massa, joined the series in Season 5. This also happened to be my first year of college, and I was learning a lot about mechanical and electrical engineering at the same time. The series caught my attention right away, and I was mesmerized by the futuristic design and sound of the cars. In the years since, I have been closely following the series and its commitment to sustainability and racing for a cleaner future. I was always passionate about the motorsport aspect of the series, but now the technology and environmental aspects are pushing it to the forefront in my mind.

**SAM HAINES:** As a university student that has spent the last 2 years conducting research in the renewable energy sector building an electric race car, I've looked to Formula E as an example for what to strive for. I was already a racing nut before entering this competition, but over the course of this application process I've become much more familiar with the culture and core values of Formula E and have come to appreciate it as more than just a racing series. I've learnt how the series has pushed for advancements in sustainability in facets of electric mobility, event planning, and fan experience which has done nothing but increase my desire to end up working in this field. My passion for Formula E is therefore twofold. Like my research, Formula E combines sustainability with competitive racing, the perfect combination.

### Why did you apply for this role?

**SAM:** As my time at university draws to a close, the most rewarding experiences that I've had can be traced back to racing. Showing up to work with people that are driven by the same competitive itch is what makes racing special. The opportunity presented by Modis and the Mercedes-EQ Formula E



## OUR PEOPLE

Team offers this on a grand scale. This role offers the opportunity to learn from somebody whose career path has followed a trajectory that I would like to mimic. The blend of management and technical engineering experience is something I have been chasing in a role, which makes this opportunity twice as attractive. Simply put, I applied for this role because it has a little bit of everything that I want. Growing up in a small town in North Queensland, the opportunities to begin a career in Formula E are almost non-existent. This role has opened that opportunity to participants from 66 countries who wouldn't normally get the chance.

**SHREYAS:** My sole focus since even before starting university was to work in top-level motorsport. Nothing excited me as much as racing, and I knew I wanted to be involved in the sport at the highest level. Alongside this passion for racing, I have also been a strong supporter of environmental causes and sustainability in daily life. When I saw these interests combined in this role, I knew I had to apply right away. I couldn't miss the chance to work directly with the Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team in the highest-level single seater electric racing series and help make a difference to a cause I care about.

**IQRA:** Passion, purpose and potential! Very early on I developed a passion for not only this industry but the potential of innovation and engineering development, more important creating a positive impact with purpose. I have been searching for my next challenge where I can not only put my skills and experience to use but continue to develop myself as an engineer and leader in an industry I love and at the forefront of motorsport.

### **Tell us about your background?**

**SHREYAS:** I was born and raised in Mumbai, India, and moved to the US to attend university. I'm currently in my final year, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. I chose this field to pursue my interest in working in motorsport, and thus far it has been extremely rewarding. Outside of classes, I also work on my university Formula Hybrid team, which builds and competes electric race cars at an annual competition in New Hampshire. Recently, I've joined a Formula 4 team competing in the US F4 Championship and have been working as an engineer with them. My short journey so far has been very exciting, and I'm looking forward to the challenges yet to come!

**IQRA:** I'm an engineer, currently working in powertrain design. I studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Warwick focusing on the high performance automotive and motorsport industry. Throughout my time at university, I was extensively involved with "Formula Student", where the challenge was to design, develop, build and market a single seater racing car for the annual competition. During this time, I had the opportunity to work across all areas of motorsport, from engineering and technical to commercial and business. Taking this a step further, I led the team for two seasons delivering our first electric racecar which has been one of the most challenging yet rewarding moments of my life!

**SAM:** I'm currently a week away from publishing my master's thesis in electrical engineering where I've been investigating novel methods for state of charge estimation techniques and how they are best implemented on embedded hardware. Which is a fancy way of saying I've been trying to make a really



## OUR PEOPLE

accurate fuel gauge for an electric vehicle. I was previously employed at Airbus and had a graduate role lined up, but after some soul searching, I knew the defense industry wasn't the route I wanted to take. Instead, I signed onto a postgraduate research role in the automotive renewable energy sector. Unlike the lucky folk over in Europe, us Aussies have to stay up till 2 am to catch the European races which doesn't result in an eagerness to learn on Mondays. I was lucky enough to lead an electrical team in the formula student competition and helped Team Arrow build a solar car that raced from Darwin to Adelaide in the World Solar Challenge.

### **What have you learned about Modis?**

**IQRA:** They are a great organization full of wonderful individuals who have been incredibly supportive over this process. They are passionate about their projects and take pride in their partnerships, actively searching for the right qualities in a candidate rather than following traditional methods which reflect Modis' drive for innovation and improving the world we live in.

**SAM:** I've had the opportunity to speak with Modis representatives from all around the world in the last couple weeks and they have all been unbelievably kind. One of the fondest memories I've had during this application process was when I picked up a call from my contact with Modis Australia and I could hear how genuinely psyched she was for me that I had made the top three.

I was able to experience firsthand some of the software solutions that Modis is capable of producing with the online escape room task. The top 10 candidates from around the world were virtually locked away in Modis headquarters and were tasked with stopping a hacker by solving a bunch of puzzles. This was a unique way of identifying how 10 candidates would react under pressure and helped in quantifying personality types and communication abilities.

**SHREYAS:** I learned that Modis is a vibrant company with a vision for the future and is working tirelessly to implement the same. Everyone I spoke with was excited to be a part of the team and seemed passionate about their work. The people at Modis really take the time to get to know their clients, which I found particularly appealing. I look forward to seeing what Modis has in store!

### **If you are chosen, how do you think these nine months will go? What do you think Modis is expecting of you?**

**SAM:** It's hard to predict how I think the next nine months would go with COVID restrictions hanging overhead. As I sit here writing this, Australian states are struggling to keep a lid on new COVID cases. I hope I get the opportunity to fly to Europe and satisfy all of my Formula E cravings. If I were ultimately selected, I believe Modis would be expecting me to bring a huge amount of passion to everything that I do and to sponge up the experience as much as possible, which I would gladly oblige.

**SHREYAS:** My gut tells me these nine months are going to fly by! I think it's going to be fast paced and challenging - but extremely rewarding. Getting used to a completely new environment is going to be



## OUR PEOPLE

the first hurdle. I also expect to be placed in situations I've never been in before, so being adaptable is going to be crucial.

I believe Modis is expecting me to give 100%, which is what I expect of myself as well. With this position being the first of its kind, I'm sure the team will be looking for feedback and ideas as well. If I'm chosen for this position, I'll certainly be looking forward to meeting many new people and working with Modis and the Mercedes-EQ Formula E Team.

**IQRA:** I know the season will fly by very quickly! I think Modis have high expectations, and rightly so. Given the nature of the role, it will be packed full of opportunities and challenges and so I have to maximize the most out of every second and also ensure I can contribute towards making a real difference over that period.

### **What are your strongest skills?**

**IQRA:** Leadership, communication and perspective. These are areas that have not only strengthened over time but have proven their worth, especially in high pressure and time-constrained environments.

**SHREYAS:** I believe my strongest skills are in adapting to new environments and tough situations. I enjoy pushing my limits in all aspects of life and expanding my personal boundaries. I'm a quick learner, and I love meeting and learning from people who have similar interests and a passion for what they do. Lastly, I'm confident in my ability to put my head down and get the job done - which is what really counts in the end.

**SAM:** I bring a mix of technical knowledge and communication skills that fit nicely into a role with a split in business/technical duties. I like to think I'm a very personable individual, but I suppose everybody thinks that. The experience I've had presenting my research findings to industry and demonstrating projects to defense force stakeholders has given me confidence in my ability to communicate ideas. If Stoffel or Nick need a weekend off, I'm pretty handy behind the wheel, so I guess my strongest skill is the ability to step in as a replacement driver.

### **Why are you the perfect candidate?**

**SHREYAS:** I believe I am the perfect candidate because this role fits my interests and skills perfectly. I have a strong passion for all forms of motorsport and have experience with electric race cars. I have a technical background in engineering which helps me understand the fundamentals of racing. When combined with my experience in project management this helps me present ideas effectively and problem solve efficiently. I have experience working at ground zero in motorsport from being trackside in Formula 4 and have been through the ups and downs and topsy turvy challenges of a race weekend. I speak four languages, including German, and love travelling, which is well suited to a role in a World Championship racing series.



## OUR PEOPLE

SAM: At every level of study, I have volunteered my time to be a part of a racing team. As my time at university draws to a close, I would bring that passion over with me to Formula E. I've spent the last six years honing my technical understanding of electrical systems and I like to think I have a personality that thrives in a team environment. But the main reason why I am the perfect candidate, nobody wants this more than I do.

IQRA: I'm an enthusiastic engineer with a strong work ethic and attention to detail. I have a variety of skills and proven experience I can bring to the table: from engineering design and project management to communication and leadership. I understand what it takes to lead a team from start to finish and not only want to use this opportunity for myself but as a platform where I can challenge, influence and make a meaningful impact on areas such as sustainability, access to STEM and equality all whilst breaking social norms.

The campaign is a unique project from Modis and a good example showing the world how the company is engineering a smarter future for young engineers. Modis wants to give candidates access to a career in tech.



Want to learn more? Visit [modis.com](https://www.modis.com)