

**RIGHT** Racelogic's DriftBox (inset) will help drive a new sport forward. Or should that be sideways?



## CATCH MY DRIFT?

DRIFTING is probably a new term to many readers but there was plenty of talk about this new phenomenon in the halls at the show. While not specifically circuit racing as we know it, it does take place on a track under controlled conditions. With its roots in Japan, it has now been taken up in the US and is growing in popularity in Europe. The basic element of drifting is driving a car at an angle and doing sideways drifts as if caught out on black ice with a rear wheel car.

Until now the judging has been done on the same basis as figure skating or ballroom dancing, which is that the performance is judged on a subjective basis. Such have been the advances in popularity that a measuring device has been developed that can define the parameters of the drift itself.

UK company Racelogic has answered the call with the DriftBox that measures the drift angle, lap timing, acceleration and speed. It is a combination of custom-designed motion sensors with the fastest GPS engine in its class that is updated 10 times a second.

Racelogic has also spent 12 months developing a very accurate turn rate sensor which is used to measure the angle the vehicle is pointing. Combining the readings from this sensor with the GPS outputs enables DriftBox to measure the precise drift angle of the vehicle.

All of this data is displayed in real-time on the backlit LCD screen. Full data logging is included via the removable 64 Mb SD card and comprehensive Windows software to analyse and view the data graphically.

"It is a cut-down version of our VBOX, our high-end professional device that is used for measuring the speed and position of a moving vehicle and used by more than 95% of the car companies and tyre companies," said Mike Broadbent, Racelogic's sales manager.

"The D1 Grand Prix series in Japan, which is the premier event, will be using our DriftBox as from this year as will the D1 GB. Where it was used as a judging aid last year, this year it will be part of the judging procedure. It means that people who want to get into the sport will be able to analyse their performance. Additionally, it will be possible to upload the data into a worldwide drifting league."