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Mégane F1 Team R26 voted 2007 Sports Model of the Year

French motor sport magazine *Echappement* has singled out Mégane F1 Team R26 as the winner of its much-coveted *Sportive de l'année* (Sports Model of the Year) award. It is the fifth time that Renault has lifted this highly prized accolade. Previous winners were the Renault 5 GT Turbo in 1985, Clio 16S in 1991, the Spider Renault Sport in 1996 and Clio Renault Sport in 2000. Renault is now the carmaker which has won the highest number of Sports Model of the Year titles since *Echappement* introduced the award in 1982.

Developed by Renault Sport Technologies, Mégane F1 Team R26 is the sportiest member of the Mégane Renault Sport family. A panel of *Echappement* writers and guest readers voted it Sports Model of the Year 2007. Magazine readers also sent in their votes, choosing 10 models from a list of cars that had come to market during the year. The 10 short-listed vehicles were then tried out on stages used during this year's *Rallye du Limousin* in the west of France and then round the *Mas du Clos* circuit in the central French department of La Creuse. During the test drives, the panel of judges assessed the performance of the would-be sports models of the year. Rally driver Bryan Bouffier also took part, bringing his expertise to bear and pushing the cars to the limit.

The purpose of the award and test procedure was to single out the car with the most suitable credentials to become the Sports Model of the Year. The process avoids head-to-head contests – vehicle specifications and market positioning are just too different. The factors taken into consideration were the vehicles' performance, of course, their price and the general philosophy that underpinned them.

When voting was over, Mégane F1 Team R26 totalled 83 points, ahead of the Peugeot 207 RC which had 72 and the BMW M3 (69). Clio F1 Team R27 was rated a very honourable fifth, ahead of much more powerful vehicles.

Mégane F1 Team R26 is manufactured at Renault's Dieppe plant (Normandy) and was first retailed in April 2007 throughout Europe and in certain other high export markets. It accounts for 57 per cent of Mégane Renault Sport petrol engine sales.

Its success has earned it the right to a commercial career that has been extended to the beginning of 2009.

Final Standings

1st, RENAULT MEGANE F1 TEAM R26

2nd, Peugeot 207 RC

3rd, BMW M3

4th, Lotus Europa S

5th, RENAULT CLIO F1 Team R27

6th, Audi S3

7th, Honda Civic Type-R

8th, Mazda3 MPS

9th, VW Golf GTI Edition 30

10th, Opel Corsa OPC

The Sports Model of the Year award is the front-page feature in issue 484 of *Echappement* dated 24 November 2007.

You can view all the specs and features of Mégane F1 Team R26 on the Renault media website: www.media.renault.com > [Products and Brands](#) > [Renault](#) > Passenger Cars: Mégane Renault Sport

High-resolution photos of Mégane F1 Team R26 and the Sports Saloon of the Year award can be downloaded from:

<http://www.media.renault.com> > Photo Library > Renault Range: Passenger Cars > Mégane F1 Team

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