

Bipernews

Quarterly Newsletter

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2008 Market Developments



Biperformance attended the spectacular EICMA 65th International Motorcycle Show with great expectations. While there we took stock of the many developments at the show. Honda introduced the DN-01, a Hydrostatic ride system that has been dubbed the HFT, Human Friendly Transmission. It is hard not make some comparison to cement mixer trucks, fork lifts, and garden tractors, which all use the same hydrostatic drive system. The overall design of the bike is beautiful and is a credit to Honda's design group and marketing vision. The Aprilia 850 Mana introduced at the previous EIMCA Show has a CVT transmission and has been ridden by journalists with generally positive comments. Aprilia has gone to considerable efforts to create a shift-like feel from the CVT powertrain and a push button shifting feature with city, touring and sport modes. There is however a significant size and weight penalty to be paid with the CVT solution. The Yamaha FJR 1300 AE returns for its 3rd season with a sequential transmission and sits at the high end of the Sport-touring market. Journalists have noted that it suffers from performance, control logic issues, and slow speed clutch problems. It does however have more potential for proper rider control and feedback than the other technical solutions. The BRP Spyder is also offering an electric shift option, although information on the system is scarce.



ShiftFX in Trinidad



A ShiftFX equipped Kawasaki ZX14 wowed spectators in Couva, Trinidad as part of a special motorsports promotional event. Organized by local racing veteran Frankie Boodram of Speedway Promotions, the event was intended to entertain and educate the public about motorsports and safety. The event was well attended and was a great success. Piloting the ZX14 was Danny Haig and Mitch Guimaraes of Frankenstein's Performance Cycle Shop of Toronto, Ontario. Expect to hear more on these two as the 2008 racing season gets underway!

