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## McLaren MP4-12C: Further Testing of the Latest Experimental Prototypes



**Known as 'XP Beta' cars, matt-black, plastic-wrapped McLaren MP4-12Cs are being endurance- and performance-tested round the clock, prior to a limited public debut of the car in 2010.**

Much of the testing has been carried out at the Spanish **Applus IDIADA** facility, where the video you see here was shot. The road work was carried out on the public roads in the foothills near **Tarragona**. Test cars **XP8** and **XP10** are featured in the video, the second in the '**Inside McLaren Automotive**' series of short films.

Regular test driver **Chris Goodwin** is behind the wheel, while **Mark Vinnels**, the **McLaren Automotive Programme Director** who is leading the engineering team, sheds some light on these vital, final stages of road and track testing.

He comments:

"There is an extensive list of subjective and objective targets set for our prototype vehicles. These **XP Beta** cars are already achieving outstanding results in many of the subjective areas, which include ride quality, handling and many other aspects of dynamic performance.

"The benchmark competitor vehicles we have tested become nervous and twitchy at higher speed, but the 12C feels more stable than anything I have driven. Because the bump rejection is so good, the ride is smooth and the steering is solid.

"Between now and production, the vehicles and the team are working flat out. All this is geared towards not just achieving our unprecedented levels of performance but also guaranteeing the levels of quality, reliability and durability with which we expect to delight future **McLaren** customers."

After an international press launch of the new company in mid-March, **McLaren Automotive** will choose select events worldwide to show the **MP4-12C** to genuine, potential customers. It is extremely unlikely to appear at a motor show this year.

**Text:** *Steve Wakefield*

**Photos:** *McLaren*

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