

FST Credits

Whitepaper

A collaboration-driven digital credit system for Formula Student teams and the broader engineering community.

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Introduction

Formula Student is more than a competition. It is a global network of engineering teams that continuously produce knowledge, design iterations, testing experience, and technical solutions. Yet much of the collaboration between teams still remains informal, untracked, and largely invisible.

FST Credits is introduced as a digital credit system designed to make these interactions more visible, more measurable, and easier to exchange.

Rather than replacing sponsorship, funding, or existing relationships, FST Credits is intended to complement them by creating a shared layer of value exchange within the ecosystem.

The Problem

Across Formula Student teams, significant collaboration already exists. Teams help each other with CAD work, simulations, manufacturing, testing, contacts, and technical feedback.

- Teams support each other with CAD work, simulations, and manufacturing.
- Knowledge is shared informally between members and alumni.
- Technical assistance often flows without recognition or traceability.

However, this system has clear limitations.

- Contributions are not recorded or measured.
- There is no common medium of exchange.
- Collaboration depends heavily on personal networks.
- Value created within the ecosystem is often lost or left unaccounted for.

As a result, much of the ecosystem's collaborative potential remains underutilized.

The Concept

FST Credits introduces a structured yet flexible way to represent value within the ecosystem.

It allows teams and individuals to offer services, request support from other teams, and exchange value through a shared credit system.

Credits act as a unit of contribution, not a currency in the traditional sense. The goal is not financialization, but coordination.

How It Works

The system is built around a simple flow:

- A team or individual lists a service, capability, or contribution.
- Another team discovers that service and requests support.
- The exchange is completed through FST Credits.
- The interaction is recorded and becomes visible within the platform.

This creates a transparent record of collaboration and a feedback loop that can reinforce active participation across the network.

Design Principles

FST Credits is built around a few simple principles:

- **Utility over speculation.** FST Credits is not designed as a speculative asset or investment vehicle. Its main purpose is to facilitate collaboration.
- **Simplicity.** The system should remain lightweight, understandable, and easy to use.
- **Openness.** Participation should be able to scale across the broader Formula Student network.
- **Traceability.** Contributions and exchanges should become visible and easier to acknowledge.
- **Usage-driven value.** The meaning of credits should emerge from real exchanges inside the ecosystem.

Expected Outcomes

If adopted by teams, FST Credits can help create:

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- Stronger inter-team collaboration
- Greater visibility for technical contributions
- More efficient use of shared knowledge
- Less duplication of effort
- A more connected and resilient ecosystem

Most importantly, it can shift attention from isolated team performance toward network-level value creation.

Limitations

FST Credits does not attempt to solve every structural challenge within Formula Student.

- It does not replace sponsorship models.
- It is not a financial system.
- It does not guarantee equal participation.

Its success depends entirely on voluntary adoption and meaningful use by teams and contributors.

Future Direction

FST Credits is designed as a starting point rather than a finished end state.

Over time, the system may evolve into a broader collaboration layer for engineering communities, enabling richer exchange between teams, contributors, and organizations beyond a single competition context.

What begins inside Formula Student may later support wider forms of student collaboration where value can move as easily as information.

Conclusion

FST Credits is an experiment in making collaboration visible and exchangeable.

It does not impose a system on the ecosystem. It offers a tool, and its real meaning will be shaped by whether teams choose to use it.

In that sense, the future of FST Credits depends less on the design itself and more on the willingness of participants to turn collaboration into something shared, traceable, and durable.