

Jaguar TCS Racing

Jaguar TCS Racing’s Formula E race team revs up analytics performance with OpenText, optimizing race strategy and car performance to drive better results on the track.



Who is Jaguar TCS Racing?

Jaguar TCS Racing is a Formula E racing team based in the UK. Jaguar TCS Racing joined the all-electric ABB FIA Formula E World Championship series in 2016, making Jaguar the first premium car manufacturer to compete. The racing team plays a key role in designing, building and testing new technologies that support electric vehicle (EV) development across Jaguar Land Rover.

Gaining an Edge on the Competition

As an official Formula E manufacturer team, Jaguar TCS Racing designs its own electric powertrain, which includes the motor, transmission, inverter, and rear suspension. Because all teams in the Championship are required to use the same car chassis and battery, the focus is on developing the most efficient powertrain—crucial to gaining an edge on fierce competition.

“Vertica helps us to make time-critical decisions to ultimately deliver an edge that leads to more points, podiums, and wins for Jaguar TCS Racing.”

PHIL CHARLES

Technical Manager
Jaguar TCS Racing

Successful electric powertrain development demands much more than simply specifying and manufacturing hardware. The systems and software used to control the powertrain, along with the algorithms that optimize its energy usage throughout each race weekend, are also key to beating the competition.

These powertrain solutions generate huge volumes of data, which the team must analyze effectively to understand and improve performance. However, the FIA—Formula E’s governing body—applies tight controls to the number of engineers allowed to access and interrogate that data, both on the track and back at team headquarters.

Phil Charles, Technical Manager at Jaguar TCS Racing, elaborates: “The restrictions mean that we must make the most of limited resources in very short and high-pressure time windows. To do so, we need to use the best techniques available in terms of data processing and analytics.”

However, this was where Jaguar TCS Racing had run up against a major stumbling block. The team’s existing analytics platform was struggling to keep pace with ever-growing data demands. As Phil Charles explains: “The system took ages to load and query data, restricted us to a set volume of data we could



At a Glance

- **Industry**
Automotive
- **Location**
Grove, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom
- **Challenge**
Eliminating limitations on data uploading and analysis is critical to Jaguar TCS Racing’s success in Formula E.
- **Products and Services**
Vertica Analytics Platform
- **Success Highlights**
 - + Sub-second analytics query response times fuel rapid insights for elevated track performance
 - + 100 billion data points/season—every sensor, car, event—drives informed decisions on and off track
 - + Race engineers and strategists get access to billions of event data points in minutes not hours
 - + Eliminating sacrifices to speed and accuracy caused by exporting and down sampling data sets using the 650+ in built functions



handle, and forced us to work with aggregate and down-sampled data. It was holding us back from analyzing data as quickly and deeply as we wanted. Ultimately, this was holding back our performance on the track.”

A Winning Partnership

Prior to Season 7 of Formula E, Jaguar TCS Racing set out to rebuild its data processing and analytics environment from the ground up. As part of this move, the team welcomed OpenText™ as its official digital transformation, business resiliency, and analytics partner. In a very short window, Jaguar TCS Racing worked with OpenText™ to migrate from its legacy NoSQL system to an advanced analytics and machine learning platform powered by OpenText™ Vertica.

Phil Charles comments: “Vertica’s real-time analytics and machine learning capabilities

are a great fit for our environment, helping us improve data-driven performance on and off the track. Vertica opens a new door for us: It allows us to collect as much data as we can in a well-defined, centralized analytical database and make it available to the relevant people incredibly quickly.”

With the OpenText™ Vertica Analytics Platform, there are no longer limits on how much data Jaguar TCS Racing can analyze. The team now has full access to all the raw data from every practice, qualifying, and race session (after the race cars return to the garage they are plugged in, and the data is downloaded).

Phil Charles gives an example: “Consider the raw data logged on each race car—from speed and lateral acceleration to steering angles and suspension geometry. Once that data is downloaded, Vertica gives us access to more than

half a billion data points. We then run analytics on this directly in Vertica, which enables us to glean impactful results.”

Thanks to Vertica Analytics Platform’s scalable massively parallel processing (MPP) architecture, Jaguar TCS Racing enjoys fast, efficient analysis of even the largest datasets. The team also has access to Vertica Analytics Platform’s more than 650 in-database functions for querying data. On top of this, Jaguar TCS Racing used Vertica Analytics Platform’s User-Defined Extension component to build a bespoke low-pass filter to run against its data. This ensures top analytical performance without having to move the data to other systems or tools first.

Appreciating that races can be won or lost by margins measured in fractions of a second, every millisecond that can be shaved off an analytics query means that valuable insights can be in



the hands of race engineers and strategists in time to make impactful adjustments to the cars before the next race. Working closely with the OpenText team, Jaguar TCS Racing highlighted a query for performance improvement. It previously used one of Vertica Analytics Platform's in-database functions and took over 4 seconds to complete. Within a couple of days, Vertica Analytics Platform provided a solution that delivered an improved function call, bringing that query down to just over 500 ms, or 8X faster.

Alongside running analytical queries inside the Vertica Analytics Platform, Jaguar TCS Racing is now harnessing the platform's machine learning and optimization techniques to uncover new insights and trends. For example, it can look at how specific inputs by a driver or a particular car setup affect tire wear, then the

team can fine-tune vehicle settings or driver guidance for better performance on race day.

Steering Record Results

With OpenText, Jaguar TCS Racing has transformed the way it processes and analyses data—and the difference is clear to see from start to finish. Whereas previously, it could take hours to load data from each race car into the team's legacy system, Vertica Analytics Platform facilitates priority access to load key data sources within seconds. And the complete dataset can now be loaded within minutes of the cars entering the garage.

Query performance has also been turbocharged. For instance, using Live Aggregate Projections in Vertica Analytics Platform, Jaguar TCS Racing has accelerated a single

query from 60 seconds to 15 milliseconds. Thanks to this performance boost, engineers and race strategists are now able to analyze a greater volume of data in much more detail. This has revealed all-new insights that the team can use to make critical performance adjustments to each car's powertrain, suspension, steering, braking, power management, and more.

Phil Charles states: "We are doing things with Vertica that were just not possible with our previous system. By getting data into the platform incredibly quickly and with sub-second query response times, our race engineers have been able to unlock new value from our data between practice, qualifying, and race sessions."

This solution has had a clear impact on the track: Season 7 of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship was Jaguar's most successful yet. With eight podiums, two wins, and one pole position, Jaguar TCS Racing finished the season as runners-up in a field of 12 teams, and just four points behind the winners. The team's previous highest position was 6th.

Phil Charles confirms: "With access to all the data, 650+ in-database functions, and the blazingly fast query results, Vertica helps us to make time-critical decisions to ultimately deliver an edge that leads to more points, podiums, and wins for Jaguar TCS Racing."

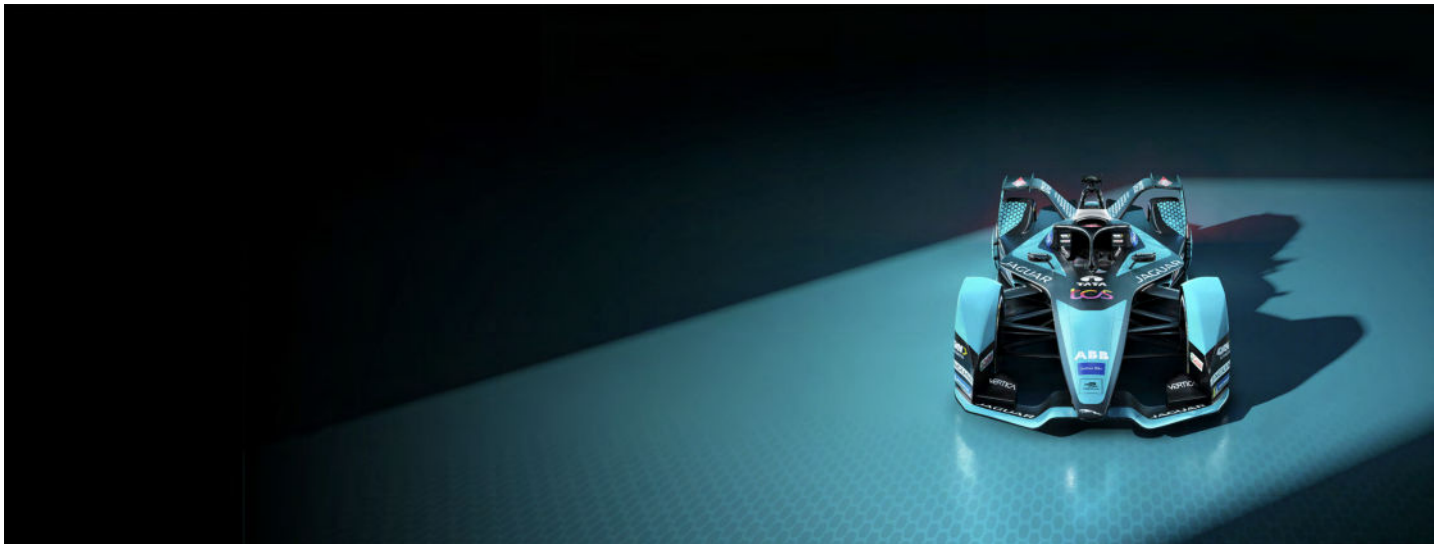
Ready for the Road Ahead

For the eighth season of Formula E, Jaguar TCS Racing is pushing for even better results. The team is currently working to integrate Vertica Analytics Platform into its existing web-based app for visualizing key analytics. With Vertica Analytics Platform's analytics embedded into their race toolset, race engineers and strategists will have near-instant access to data, which will fuel even faster decisions.

“We’re excited for what the upcoming Formula E season holds for the team, and we look forward to working closely with Micro Focus (now part of OpenText) to continue this success.”

JAMES BARCLAY
Team Principal
Jaguar TCS Racing

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James Barclay, Team Principal, Jaguar TCS Racing

As Jaguar TCS Racing gears up for Season 8 and beyond, OpenText will be right alongside it, delivering the speed, scale, and reliability of analytics to help the team claim more points, podiums, and wins on the racetrack.

James Barclay, Team Principal of Jaguar TCS Racing, concludes: “We’re excited for what the upcoming Formula E season holds for the team, and we look forward to working closely with Micro Focus (now part of OpenText) to continue this success.”

Learn more at
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