

Field : **VIDEO CAMERA SUSPENSION**

SOCITEC onboard « La Vaillante »

SOCITEC, which is already widely recognised for its suspensions for video cameras, viewfinders and pods mounted on tanks, aircraft, helicopters and combat vehicles, was consulted by a film company specialising in shots filmed from vehicles, in order to ensure the stability and quality of the images filmed.

STORYBOARD

During winter 2001, work began on writing the screenplay for the film *Michel Vaillant*, the hero of the French comic strip, for which the main action takes place at the prestigious Le Mans 24 hour race. At that time, the production team procured 700 to 750 hp prototypes with the specific qualities required for selection at Le Mans. The film crew therefore had to subject itself to the same conditions as the other competitors; namely to register, equip two racing stables, and pass the qualifying trials. These took place in March 2002 and the famous race was planned for

15 and 16 June 2002.



QUALIFYING PROVED DIFFICULT

La Vaillante, the car driven by Michel Vaillant in the film, was equipped with a 35mm video camera for all the shots filmed from the vehicle.

The first few laps around the circuit soon revealed that the picture was not sufficiently stable. As a matter of fact, the vibrations generated by the racing car travelling at over 300 kmph were affecting the video camera badly and the shots filmed were unusable.

Given the available timeslots for shooting, it became extremely urgent for the team to find a solution that would enable:

- the quality of the images to be guaranteed
- easy integration of the video camera into the confined space of the vehicle's cockpit
- and which would be available immediately.

SOCITEC, EXPERTISE AND RESPONSIVENESS

This race against the clock was immediately taken on by the SOCITEC team. Bolstered by its experience in terms of suspensions for onboard optical equipment, it quickly identified the appropriate isolators, thus dispensing with a long series of tests.

The flexibility of SOCITEC's production workshop also enabled the prototypes to be manufactured and delivery to be made to the film company within the timeframe. The film company will be gratifying the public with stunning scenes for everyone's enjoyment.

