



### Norton confirms Isle of Man project

The company's boss has always said Norton has to return to the race track to be taken seriously, and now here it is: an entry in the 2012 Isle of Man TT Senior event

Norton has announced the development of a race bike to compete in the 2012 Isle of Man TT Senior race, the start of which is described as a "three-year project".

Stuart Garner, the CEO of Norton Motorcycles (UK) Ltd, said: "We will be genuinely happy to come home with a solid finish this year. Any position would be a bonus. Over three years we would like to be in a position to be podium competitive, although we understand that it is a huge mountain to climb, and we have our work cut out to achieve this.

"But we have not lost focus in our road bike business, and we remain totally committed to meeting the growing demand for the Commando 961."

The race bike features a Spondon chassis, Ohlins suspension, Brembo brakes, and an Aprilia RSV4 engine – much like a MotoGP CRT machine. Norton reportedly has a 1000cc V4 engine under development, but the RSV4 donk will be the first port of call.

There's also the signature Norton alloy tank, too. The bike was built and is now being tested solely within the factory at Donington Park Grand Prix Circuit.

Ian Mackman, a five-year Isle of Man veteran, will pilot the new Norton in the TT, with [this year's event](#) to be held between May 26 and June 8.

For more information about Norton visit [www.nortonmotorcycles.com](http://www.nortonmotorcycles.com).

*Read the latest Bikesales Network news and reviews on your mobile, iPhone or PDA at [the Bikesales Network's mobile site](#). Or download the [all-new App](#).*

Published : Thursday, 19 April 2012