

24 March 2015

**Rounds 1 & 2 – Sepang, Malaysia – 28/29 March 2015**

## **PREVIEW**

### **The TCR International Series kicks off at F1 Malaysia Grand Prix**

The inaugural season of the TCR International Series kicks off this weekend at the Sepang International Circuit, as support event to the Formula 1 Malaysia Grand Prix.

TCR competitors will hit the track for the first time on Friday for two twenty-minute Free Practice sessions. On Saturday they will take part in a thirty-minute Qualifying; all drivers will run during Q1 and the fastest twelve will be allowed to participate in Q2.

The first-ever race of the TCR International Series will take place on Saturday afternoon, just before the F1 Qualifying. The second race will be held on Sunday as an appetizer to the F1 GP.

#### **TCR in Sepang – the event at a glance**

Lap distance: 5.54 km

Race distance: 8 laps or 20 minutes

Start: standing

Grids: determined by Qualifying results (Q1+Q2) with top-10 reversed for Race 2

Timetable:	Friday, 12:40/13:00	Free Practice 1
	Friday, 16:45/17:05	Free Practice 2
	Saturday, 12:30/13:00	Qualifying (Q1 + Q2)
	Saturday, 15:30	Race 1
	Sunday, 12:35	Race 2

all times: GMT +8

### **Cars of five different brands will fight in the TCR opener**

The entry list of the season opener features 17 drivers of ten nationalities at the wheel of cars produced by five manufacturers: Audi, Ford, Honda, Opel and SEAT.

Among them are many familiar faces, such as former F1 driver and Ferrari tester Gianni Morbidelli and a trio of Touring Car experts; Franz Engstler, Michel Nykjær and Jordi Gené. They will face ambitious youngsters like Pepe Oriola, Sergey Afanasyev, Stefano Comini and three promising teenagers Ferenc Ficza, Lorenzo Veglia and Jordi Oriola.

The field is completed by celebrated Hong Kong architect Frank Yu who is also a successful amateur racer.

See the entry list attached to this release

## **The latest moves among the competitors**

Campos Racing and Proteam Racing were the last to announce the details of their programmes. The Spanish outfit will run Opel Astra OPC cars – one for Ukraine's Igor Skuz; Italy-based Proteam has entered Ford Focus ST cars built and developed by Onyx Engineering and has signed Diego Romanini as its first driver. Campos and Proteam will take part in the two events in Malaysia and China with two Astras and one Focus respectively, but both teams are due to add additional cars from the first European event in Valencia.

WestCoast Racing has named former WTCC regular René Münnich as its third driver, alongside Morbidelli and Kevin Gleason.

Finally, Liqui Moly Team Engstler has received authorization from WSC Ltd and the TCR Technical Committee to start the season with two Audi TT cars. Team principal Franz Engstler and Russian racer Mikhail Grachev will be at the wheel of Audi TT racing cars in Sepang, while the team's third driver Lorenzo Veglia will run in a SEAT León Racer.

## **First TV deals announced for TCR International Series**

The first deals have been put in place between WSC Ltd and the TV channels that will broadcast the 2015 TCR International Series.

The Pan-European channel Motors TV will air all races live and so will BT Sport in the UK and Ireland; SKY Italia will broadcast TCR races on its F1 HD channel, live when there is no F1 GP in the weekend, or delayed in the event of a clash with F1. The same applies to the Mediaset Canal F1 that covers Central and South America.

Sport 1 in Russia and Channel 4 SportPro in Finland will offer 26-min highlights of each event repeated three times during the following week. Race highlights will also be broadcast by Fox Sports International across 43 countries in Asia and by Torque TV in North America.

Other negotiations are heading towards a successful conclusion and these include coverage in Germany, Portugal, Spain, Middle East, China, Indonesia and Thailand.

Worldwide news channels Omnisport and SNTV will report on the series on a regular basis.

WSC CEO Marcello Lotti commented: *"We are delighted that the first deals have been reached in order to guarantee a good worldwide TV coverage for the TCR International Series. We are especially pleased because this has happened even before the inaugural event takes place. And we are confident that we will be able to announce further agreements next week."*

# entry list



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## **FORMULA 1 PETRONAS MALAYSIA GRAND PRIX**

#	team	driver	car
6	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Franz Engstler (GER)	Audi TT
7	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Lorenzo Veglia (ITA)	SEAT León Racer
8	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Mikhail Grachev (RUS)	Audi TT
10	West Coast Racing	Gianni Morbidelli (ITA)	Honda Civic TCR
17	Target Competition	Michel Nykjær (DEN)	SEAT León Racer
20	Campos Racing	Igor Skuz (UKR)	Opel Astra OPC
21	Campos Racing	Jordi Oriola (ESP)	Opel Astra OPC
23	West Coast Racing	Renè Münnich (GER)	Honda Civic TCR
24	West Coast Racing	Kevin Gleason (USA)	Honda Civic TCR
25	Target Competition	Stefano Comini (SUI)	SEAT León Racer
33	Target Competition	Andrea Belicchi (ITA)	SEAT León Racer
55	Zengő Motorsport	Ferenc Ficza (HUN)	SEAT León Racer
72	Proteam Racing	Diego Romanini (ITA)	Ford Focus ST
74	Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL	Pepe Oriola (ESP)	SEAT León Racer
77	Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL	Sergey Afanasyev (RUS)	SEAT León Racer
88	Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL	Jordi Gené (ESP)	SEAT León Racer
99	Craft-Bamboo Racing	Frank Yu Siu Fung (HKG)	SEAT León Racer