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CRAFT-BAMBOO RACING PARTNERS WITH LUKOIL

Craft-Bamboo Racing announced a title partnership with LUKOIL, to compete in the 2015 TCR International Series.

Entering the maiden season of TCR International Season under the name Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL, the team presents itself as a competitive force with a trio of SEAT León cars.

Craft-Bamboo Racing has a successful Touring Car history dating back to 2009. In 2013 they claimed the independent title with a third place overall in the FIA World Touring Car Championship.

Richard Coleman, CEO of Craft-Bamboo Racing declared: *"I am thrilled to announce our three car entry into the TCR International series. We are very excited to be working with LUKOIL because not only are they an excellent partner, but they also have a reputation for backing winners. The title is our aim but we know how difficult that will be with so many top teams and drivers."*

Sergey Afanas'ev joins Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL

Sergey Afanas'ev is one of the three drivers who will be contesting the new TCR International Series with Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL.

The 26 year old Russian began his career with LUKOIL in Formula Russia in 2003. His first season was a success, taking three wins and the title in his first year of professional racing. Afanas'ev progressed through various single-seater series, culminating with a third place in the 2010 FIA Formula Two Championship; the following year he finished third again in the AutoGP. In 2013 Afanas'ev switched to the FIA GT1 World Championship and was crowned champion in the Pro-Am division.

Earlier this week Afanas'ev has completed four successful days of testing at Valencia and Barcelona with the SEAT León Racer, which allowed him to familiarize with the car and adapt to front wheel drive.

Afanas'ev said: *"The TCR International Series is a new challenge for me and I'm looking forward to the season. We conducted several tests, in which I learned the car. The new SEAT León is very different from GT cars, but I did not have any problem adapting."*

MORBIDELLI AND GLEASON PAIR UP AT WESTCOAST

WestCoast Racing announced the first two two drivers for its attack on the inaugural season of the TCR International Series.

WestCoast Racing will field a trio of Honda Civic cars built and developed to the new TCR technical regulations by JAS Motorsport; and the third driver will be announced soon.

Morbidelli boasts an impressive career, from the title in the 1989 Italian F3 Championship that was followed by many years in F1 with Minardi, Footwork, Sauber and Ferrari (his best result was a third place in Australia in 1995).

He has also emerged as successful Touring Car driver, winning races for Alfa Romeo, BMW and Audi. Last year he took part in the FIA World Touring Car Championship, scoring victory at the Hungaroring in a RML Chevrolet Cruze.

"I am genuinely excited about joining WestCoast Racing and I will use all of my experience to do the best job possible," said Morbidelli. "My first impressions of the team, the Honda Civic TCR and the TCR International Series are very good and I'm ready for a new challenge. Everything is new so we're all starting from zero and, while the car is still in the early stages of development, I believe WestCoast Racing has the ability and the determination to succeed, having met them and tested at Barcelona and Vallelunga. I'm sure they will do a fantastic job."

With a background in US-based touring cars, Gleason has demonstrated skill and adaptability by seamlessly transitioning between different specifications of race cars and accumulating various high profile race victories along the way. His key achievements include a win in the 25 Hours of Thunderhill, the Continental Tire Sportscar Challenge VIR 13 Hour and the 2014 ADAC Nürburgring 6 Hours.

"I feel very fortunate to be a part of the Westcoast Racing team for the inaugural TCR International Series season," said Gleason. "The team is well proven and brings a vast array of experience that I'm sure will help see it quickly adapt to the new challenge it faces in 2015. Beyond the team itself, I expect the Honda Civic TCR to be a competitive package, especially with the support of JAS Motorsport and Mugen. I look forward to building these relationships into a successful campaign."

Westcoast Racing Team Manager, James Nixon, said: *"Westcoast Racing is delighted to welcome Morbidelli and Gleason to the team. By being able to announce such drivers shows the team's intentions for this championship. Together, we are aiming high."*