



GT NEWS

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SRO ANNOUNCES THE CITATION GT1 CUP

Non-professional drivers were behind the revival of GT racing in the 1990's. Racing themselves, funding development programmes or seats for professional drivers, they have long been the unsung heroes of the category, often taking a back seat while the stars take the glory. In recent years, the number of true non-professionals has dwindled in the FIA GT Championship, as it has become steadily more competitive, and established endurance stars, former Formula One or stars from other single-seater categories have dominated the grid. For 2007, SRO will take a step towards re-establishing the balance between professionals and non-professionals with the formation of the Citation GT1 Cup. Running within the GT1 category of the 2007 FIA GT Championship, the Citation GT1 Cup will have a separate classification and podium for the eligible cars.

Thanks to the support of Cessna Corporation, manufacturer of the famous Citation business jets, the winners of each round will receive a credit of three flying hours in a Citation, while the winner of the season will be awarded an outstanding prize. The Citation Cup will be limited to eight rounds, excluding Zhuhai and Spa.

As, for non-professional drivers, the pure performance of the car is less of a prominent factor, the Citation GT1 Cup aims to welcome back some of the icons of GT racing. This could include the Ferrari 550 Maranello, Championship-winner between 2003 and 2005 but mainly absent from the grid in 2006, and also such cars as the Ferrari 575 M Maranello, the Lister Storm and earlier generations of the Saleen S7R.

To be eligible to take part in the Championship, the same criteria as used in the FIA GT3 European Championship will be applied. Drivers are classified as Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze depending on their career record and age. Only drivers adhering to the Gold, Silver or Bronze classes may compete in the GT1 Citation Cup; Gold class drivers may only drive alongside Bronze class drivers.

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THE DETAILS

The Citation GT1 Cup will consist of eight two-hour races, run within the FIA GT Championship.

Teams are also welcome to compete in the two remaining FIA GT events, Zhuhai and Spa, but no points will be awarded towards the Citation GT1 Cup.

CLASSIFICATION : Points will be awarded to teams and drivers both as part of the overall GT1 Championship, and for a separate Citation GT1 Cup classification.

Points will be allotted according to the standard FIA scale of 10- 8- 6 -5- 4- 3- 2 -1.

PODIUM : Should at least 8 cars be entered in the Citation GT1 Cup, a separate podium ceremony will be organized for the top three finishers. If less than eight cars are present, the winner will be invited to the GT1 Podium.

PRIZES : thanks to Cessna/Citation, the winning crew will win three hours in an exclusive flying hours in a business jet.



For more information on the teams,
drivers and everything about the
FIA GT Championship,
please visit :
www.fiagt.com

SRO
Motorsports Group

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The Citation logo will also be seen on the cars taking part in the FIA GT3 European Championship, as the aim of the Citation Cup will be to bring the winner of the FIA GT3 European Championship to GT1 or GT2, with a budget of 150,000 euros, to which will be added the free supply of Michelin tyres in the FIA GT Championship for the following year (up to 40 sets).

“The Cessna aircraft company is delighted to be associated with the 2007 FIA GT Championship and the Citation Cup. We believe that there is strong marketing synergy between the aviation and motor car racing industries,” commented Trevor Esling - Vice President International Sales, Cessna Corporation.

Stephane Rateil, Chairman of SRO, promoter of the FIA GT Championship, commented : “ The combination of racing a GT1 car and flying to the event in a Citation jet would be rightly considered to be the ultimate lifestyle. Speed, technology, efficiency and luxury are values common to both industries. This is the perfect partnership !”

As part of this agreement, a high-level hospitality unit will cater for both the competitors in the Citation GT1 Cup and the guests of the Cessna Corporation.



NEW PRIZE FUND FOR GT3 CHAMPION

SRO, Michelin and Citation have announced that the winner of the 2007 FIA GT3 European Championship will be awarded a prize-fund in order to allow him, or her, to move up to the FIA GT Championship in 2008. A fund of 150,000 euros, plus a season's worth of free tyres from Michelin (limited to 40 sets for the season) , should allow the new Champion to move up to the next category. “We believe this is an excellent initiative, which really allows us to set up a coherent pathway through GT racing, from GT4 through to the stars in the GT1 category,” Stephane Rateil, Chairman of SRO, commented.



2007 - THE CALENDAR

22nd/23rd February - Official Test Session and Media Launch - Monza (Italy)

6th/7th March - Nogaro (FR) Official Test Session

25th March - Zhuhai (PRC) FIA GT

11th/12th - Adria (Italy) - Official Test Session(FIA GT3 and GT4 Cup)

6th May - Silverstone (Great Britain) FIA GT - FIA GT3 - GT4 - GT90

20th May - Bucharest (Romania) FIA GT - FIA GT3 - BF3

24th June - Monza (Italy) FIA GT - FIA GT3 - BF3

8th July - Oschersleben (Germany) FIA GT - GT4 - ADAC GT Masters

28th July - Spa-Francorchamps FIA GT - 24 Hours of Spa (Belgium) GT4 - BF3

8th September - Adria (Italy) FIA GT - GT4

23rd September - Brno (Czech Rep.) FIA GT - FIA GT3

30th September - Nogaro (France) FIA GT - GT4 Cup - FFSA GT

21st October - Zolder (Belgium) FIA GT - Belcar

10th November - Dubai (UAE) FIA GT3

FIRST TV NEWS FOR 2007

With the growth of the FIA GT Championship and the reduction of the race length, SRO is delighted to confirm a very significant increase of the TV coverage for the 2007 season.

This includes a deal with DSF in Germany to show all the events either live or same-day delayed. DSF is Germany's leading sports network, present in over 90% of German homes.

In Belgium, another important market, RTL will show the half-hour highlights in prime-time, while RTBF1 will broadcast news after each race. In Italy, all races will be shown live on Sky Italia.

In France, Sport + will broadcast a 52-minute edited programme. Live deals are still to be announced in both the UK and France. In the Netherlands, live coverage will continue on Sport 1.

SRO is also pleased to announce new live agreements of all rounds in Portugal, on the leading cable network Sport TV, and in Russia on the terrestrial network 7 TV. A major new deal will see the 52-minute highlights programme broadcast on Zee in India, reaching over 70 million homes. In the Middle East, it will be seen on ART (the Arab Radio and Television Network), and all over South America on Speed.

The combination of these various channels will give the FIA GT Championship a global reach of over 200 million homes, such as it has never enjoyed before.

The list below shows all the deals which have already been confirmed for 2007; many more are still under negotiation and we hope to announce them shortly.



COUNTRY	NETWORK	TRANSMISSION	PROGRAMME PER RACE	Homes
Austria	DSF	Cabsat	Live and same day delayed	1m
Asia	ESPN STAR	Cabsat	News highlights	50m
Belgium	RTL Club	Terrestrial	26' Highlights	10m
Belgium	RTBF	Terrestrial	News Highlights	10m
France	Sport +	Cabsat	52' Highlights	4m
Germany	DSF	Cabsat	Live and same day delayed	30m
India	Zee	Cabsat	52' Highlights	70m
Italy	Nuvolari	Cabsat	52' Highlights & GT3 Live	5m
Italy	Sky Italia	Cabsat	Live	5m
Italy	Sky Italia	Pay per view	Live	not applicable
Middle East	ART	Cabsat	Live	2m
Netherlands	Sport 1	Cabsat	Live	0.5m
Portugal	Sport TV	Cabsat	Live and same day delayed	1m
Russia	7TV	Terrestrial	Live + possible GT3 live	50m
South America	Speed	Cabsat	52' Highlights & GT3 Highlights	5m
Switzerland (German)	DSF	Cabsat	Live and same day delayed	1m
Switzerland (Italian)	Sky Italia	Cabsat	Live	0.5m

BUCHAREST ANNOUNCES TICKET SALES



Tickets for Round 3 of the FIA GT Championship, in Bucharest, can now be booked online, through the web-site www.bucharest-ring.com. The event will bring together a number of top motorsport competitions, with the FIA GT Championship being joined by the Grand Prix Masters, the FIA GT3 European Championship, the Lloyds TSB Insurance British F3 International Series and the Dacia Logan Cup.

Ticket prices start from 10 euros for the Thursday, while weekend grandstand tickets are 20 euros for the Bronze tribune, 30 for the Silver, 50 euros for the Gold and 70 for the Platinum ticket. The most expensive tickets, for the VIP sector, cost 800 euros. Tickets can also be purchased at the Automobil Club of Romania from Feb 14th.

MEDIA DAY AND OFFICIAL TEST SESSION - MONZA

The Official Test days, on February 22nd and 23rd, are open to cars competing in the FIA GT Championship, FIA GT3 European Championship, GT4 European Cup and ADAC GT Masters. Teams wishing to take part should contact Benjamin Franassovici on benjamin@sro.co.uk or Paolo Callea on paolo@sro.co.uk.

Journalists and Photographers wishing to attend the Media Day should contact Jacquie Groom on jacquie@sro.co.uk

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Thursday, February 22nd

- 09.00 – 10.00 GT3 / GT4 / ADAC GT
- 10.05 – 11.20 FIA GT
- 11.25 – 12.25 GT3 / GT4 / ADAC GT
- 12.30 : Photo Session
- 13.00 : Press Conference in the media centre
- 13.30 : Media laps & lunch
- 14.00 – 15.00 FIA GT
- 15.05 – 16.20 GT3 / GT4 / ADAC GT
- 16.25 – 17.25 FIA GT

Friday, February 23rd

- 09.00 – 10.00 FIA GT
- 10.05 – 11.20 GT3 / GT4 / ADAC GT
- 11.25 – 12.25 FIA GT
- 12.30 – 13.30 : Photo Session
- 14.00 – 15.00 GT3/GT4/ADAC GT
- 15.05 – 16.20 FIA GT
- 16.25 – 17.25 GT3/GT4/ADAC GT

ZHUHAI UPDATE

The first round of the 2007 FIA GT Championship will take place at the Zhuhai International Circuit in the People's Republic of China, on March 24th and 25th.

The first consignment of freight leaves by sea in week 7. The cars leave by air freight in week 15.

For members of the press who wish to attend the first round of the 2007 season, visas are required. Forms can be found on the Download section of the FIA GT website, and should be returned to the Media Delegate on jacquie@sro.co.uk as soon as possible.



DATE CHANGE FOR FIA GT3 SEASON FINALE

The FIA GT3 European Championship will be holding its season finale at the impressive Dubai Autodrome in November 2007.

The date for this event has been changed from November 3rd to November 10th in order to avoid a clash with another major FIA event, the UAE Desert Challenge, which is a round of the FIA World Cup for Cross Country Rallies.



IMPORTANT - MAILING LIST RENEWAL

We are currently rebuilding the mailing list. To continue to receive GT News, please go to www.fiagt.com/registration2007.php

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