



GT NEWS

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SRO ANNOUNCES FIRST ROUND OF TV DEALS FOR 2006 SEASON

SRO, promoter of the international FIA GT Championship, announced today a series of television broadcast agreements with leading broadcasters from Europe and beyond.

In the UK, all races will be broadcast live and in full on FLEXTECH-owned channels BRAVO and PLAYER and a terrestrial partner will be announced soon. In Italy, SKY ITALIA will be the exclusive partner on the live broadcasts, while the one-hour highlights will be shared with NUVOLARI, Italy's specialist motorsports channel. DSF, Germany's leading sports channel, will broadcast the highlights programme to its 33m homes in peak time on Wednesdays.

Other live European broadcast partners so far include AB MOTEURS in France, UPC-owned SPORT1 in the Netherlands, CZECH terrestrial TV and TELESPORT Romania with whom agreements are currently being finalised. Motors TV, Europe's leading motorsports channel, will ensure that FIA GT reaches the maximum number of fans across Europe by broadcasting the highlights to 30 European countries.

Stephane Ratel, Chairman of the SRO group said: "With a record number of cars, drivers and teams this is a fantastic time to get involved in the broadcast of the FIA GT Championship. We know we have the quality and excitement that fans will enjoy and these new strong TV partnerships will allow us to deliver that to them in the best possible way"

Beyond Europe, all races will be shown live on AL JAZEERA across the Middle East with highlights on FUTURE TV throughout the region, and agreements are also in place with THE SPEED CHANNEL (70 million homes in North America), as well as TV GLOBO and SPORT TV in Brazil. The 2006 FIA GT championship will also receive exposure on ESPN Star Sports with all rounds being carried in the long running International Motorsports programme. The channel currently broadcasts to over 57 million homes throughout Asia.

Having secured most of the live coverage, SRO is now concentrating on the distribution of short edited programmes to terrestrial networks.

ENTRY DEADLINE EXTENDED

The FIA GT Commission of 21st February has postponed the deadline for entries to the 2006 FIA GT and GT3 Championships to March 31st, in order for the final 2006 calendar and sporting regulations to be approved by the FIA World Motor Sport Council of March 22nd, prior to the closing date for entries.



GT2 DRIVERS

Further to previous announcements, and subject to final approval from the FIA World Motor Sport Council, a drivers' performance adjustment will be introduced in GT2 for the 2006 season, in order to reduce the impact of two professional drivers in the same car.

If two drivers corresponding to the 'professional driver' definition, which is the same as that used in the FIA GT3 European Championship, are entered on the same car, the car will carry weight ballast calculated by the FIA to represent a penalty of 0,5 second per lap.

SRO
Motorsports Group

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



GTR2

FIA GT RACING GAME

SRO SIGNS NEW AGREEMENT WITH SIMBIN

SRO is delighted to announce that a new agreement has been signed with software development company Simbin, lasting through until 2011. This new agreement reaffirms the joint collaboration between the two companies since 2003.

Under the existing contract, two games have been produced : GTR - the FIA GT Racing Game, which was launched last year and which was based on the 2003 season, and the new version, GTR2, which will be available later in 2006.

This new agreement opens up great opportunities for developing games with new technology, on new platforms, aiming to get even closer to the ultimate racing experience in a game.

Stephane Ratel, Chairman of SRO, commented : "We are very pleased to continue this long-term collaboration, which has seen the FIA GT Championship become the subject of one of the very best racing simulation games available. Simbin, with their racing background, know exactly what the FIA GT Championship is about, which is what gives the GTR game its incredibly realistic nature."

Simbin CEO Henrik Roos, who raced in the FIA GT Championship between 2002 and 2004, commented : " This new licence with SRO will allow us to continue to develop games based on the FIA GT Championship. It is a strategically wise move, to be able to build further on one of the corner stones of this company. It also means we can continue a well-established, mutual trust and cooperation with SRO, which we are all very happy about. Now we can keep on making the best racing simulation available !"



A FIRST LOOK AT THE NEW GAME : GTR2

GTR : the FIA GT Racing Game, won plenty of praise when it was launched, due to the extreme realism of the game. The new version, GTR 2, due to be released in 2006, looks like being even better.

GTR2 is based on the 2004 season of the FIA GT Championship, complete with cars and tracks. It also includes plenty of new features, including three new events.

Ghost Time Trial : this mode allows a driver to compete in a Time Trial against himself or against a pre-recorded 'ghost player'. Players can share their recordings with friends and download recordings from other players.

Proximus 24 Hours of Spa : this mode recreates the full four-day event, culminating in the 24-hour race complete with a realistic day-night cycle and dynamic weather changes with clouds rolling in and rain starting and stopping. Just like the real thing !

Driving School : the player can take part in a course of driving theory, earning licenses by competing against an instructor, earning points and medal and unlocking custom tracks.

GTR2 includes over 140 highly detailed cars, including all the GT and N-GT cars from the 2004 season.

The tracks include all the 2004 circuits visited, as well as tracks from previous seasons, all modeled with detail and accuracy.

Track-IR technology, previously used in flight simulators, is fully supported in GTR2. This tracks the player's head movements, allowing him or her to look around the cockpit, glance at the rear view mirror etc.

More features will follow !

TWO CARS FOR TEAM FELBERMAYR IN 2006

Two father-and-son teams have been regular competitors in the FIA GT Championship for years : Proton Competition, with Gerold and Christian Ried, and the Felbermayr family of Horst Felbermayr Sr and Jr.

When the two families joined forces for the Proximus 24 Hours of Spa in 2005, the result was a fine podium finish for their Porsche 996 GT3 RS. Furthermore, Proton finished the season in second position in the GT2 Teams Classification, after an extremely good year.

For 2006, the Ried and Felbermayr families will join forces, to run two Porsche cars under the colours of Team Felbermayr, joining up again to run a single car in the Proximus 24 Hours of Spa.



FULL SEASON FOR THE GILLET VERTIGO

After winning the G2 category in the final three races of 2005, the Gillet Vertigo will be back for a full season in 2006. "Our aim was to try a few races in 2005 in order to see how we compared to the other cars," the man behind the car, Tony Gillet, explained. "The last three races went well, so we decided to do the full season in 2006. The Championship is the best possible showcase for our marque, and it also adds more variety and an exotic note to the grid."

The Belgian-built car has undergone a number of changes over the winter: "The car will now have a 4-litre engine, and the weight will be 1100 kg. We have changed the front brakes, lowered the centre of gravity, altered the rear axle and generally optimised the settings to make the car more competitive. Our aim is to be around the middle of the best GT2 cars," Gillet explained.

Possible drivers include the 2005 crew, led by former Formula One Minardi third driver Bas Leinders, who helped the car take three class wins at the end of last season. His team mate is likely to be Renaud Kuppens, also a regular in the team, while young Jérôme d'Ambrosio may join the team for the Proximus 24 Hours of Spa.

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