

34 CARS TO ATTEND FIA WTCC TEST IN MONZA

The official launch of the 2006 FIA World Touring Car Championship will happen next week at the Italian circuit of Monza, which will also host the season's opening meeting on April 1 and 2.

Official test sessions will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, 21 and 22 March. The participation of 34 cars has already been confirmed, including 8 competitors from the Italian Superturismo Championship.

MEDIA ACTIVITIES ON TUESDAY

The programme for the first day also includes a press conference and other media activities, such as on-track photo call and interviews.

The press conference will be held inside the circuit's Media Centre at 12.30. Jacques Behar and Marcello Lotti, President and General Manager respectively, of KSO, the promoter company, will deliver speeches.

Afterwards Federico D'Amore (MTC Organisation) and Jesus Pareja (GT Sport) will introduce the partner series: F3000 International Masters and International GT Open.

The speakers will remain available for interviews after the conference, as well as the FIA WTCC drivers and team managers.

Tuesday 21 March

10.10 – 11.10	FIA WTCC – testing
11.20 – 12.20	Photo and video session
12.30 – 13.00	Press Conference (Media Centre)
13.00 – 14.00	Interviews (drivers available in paddock/garages)
14.00 – 14.45	VIP/Media laps
14.55 – 15.55	FIA WTCC – testing
17.00 – 18.00	FIA WTCC – testing

Wednesday 22 March

10.10 – 11.10	FIA WTCC – testing
14.00 – 15.00	FIA WTCC – testing
17.00 – 18.00	FIA WTCC – testing

RANGONI AND D'ASTE TOGETHER AT PROTEAM

Italy-based Proteam Motorsport, the winner of the 2005 FIA WTCC Teams' Trophy, have unveiled their own 2006 campaign. The team owned by Valmiro Presenzini will run two BMW cars for Luca Rangoni and Stefano D'Aste.

The former returns to the FIA Touring Cars after a successful 2004 season in the European Championship, while D'Aste faces his third season with the team; last year in Spa he claimed an outstanding second position overall.

The team will start the season with one new BMW 320si for Rangoni, while D'Aste will be at the wheel of a 2005 BMW 320i again. "We hope to be in a position of preparing a second new car for him as well, during the season," team owner Presenzini said.

GR ASIA: CERESOLI JOINS CORONEL

The GR Asia line-up has been completed with the arrival of Maurizio Ceresoli alongside the experienced Tom Coronel. The 22-year old Italian faces his first season in professional motorsport, after obtaining interesting results in Formula Ford and F3.

The team will campaign two SEAT cars, with Coronel's backed by SEAT Holland. *"We'll start with two Toledos, but we'll switch to the Leóns as soon as possible. Tom will have a new car in time for the second or third event, and Maurizio a bit later,"* team principal Paul Ridgway explained, adding: *"I'm very confident about the season. We have built a strong relationship with SEAT and we have a good team: Tom is very experienced and Maurizio is a promising young guy."*

TEST AT VALENCIA FOR SEAT AND BMW

SEAT Sport and BMW works teams tested this week in Valencia. Reigning WTCC champion Andy Priaux and his BMW Team UK were there for three days, from Tuesday to Thursday. On days 1 and 2 Priaux was joined on the track by SEAT Sport with all their six drivers, while BMW Team Germany (with Jörg and Dirk Müller) and BMW Team Italy-Spain (with Alessandro Zanardi and Marcel Costa) tested at the Spanish circuit from Wednesday to Thursday.

Charly Lamm, team manager of BMW Team Germany commented. *"We had nice weather, which enabled us to test the Advan slicks tires and different set-ups. We are quite happy with the results but now we are in a hurry to finish the cars just in time for the media day at Monza."*

YVAN MULLER MEETS FRENCH PRESS IN TRAPPES

This morning Yvan Muller met a group of French journalists at Jean-Pierre Beltoise's test track in Trappes, a few kilometres from Paris. The meeting was organised by Eurosport, with the cooperation of SEAT France, in order to present Muller's new commitment to the FIA World Touring Car Championship as a member of the SEAT Sport team.

Patrick Goddet, director of Eurosport France, introduced Eurosport's involvement as host broadcaster of the world championship and unveiled the basic elements of the TV production and coverage for the new season.

After Mr Goddet's speech, Yvan Muller was interviewed by the attending media. Finally the Andros Trophy multi-champion took the wheel of a SEAT León road car, giving the journalists the thrill of some laps around the track.

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR THE FIRST MEETING

The 2006 FIA World Touring Car Championship will start at Monza, Italy, on 1st and 2nd April. **The deadline to apply for media credentials is Monday, 20 March.**

Accreditations Procedure and Accreditation Form may be downloaded from the websites www.fia.com and www.fiawtcc.com.

- **International Press:** Fabio Ravaioli – FIA WTCC Media Delegate
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COUNTDOWN: - 4 DAYS

to the 2006 FIA WTCC test and media days – 21st/22nd March, in Monza