

TOYOTA GAZOO RACING HEADS TO NÜRBURGRING

Monday 10 July 2017

TOYOTA GAZOO Racing resumes its 2017 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) season with the short trip to the Eifel this weekend for the 6 Hours of Nürburgring.

Despite a deeply disappointing Le Mans 24 Hours last month, the team remains in a close fight with Porsche for both the manufacturers' and drivers' World Championships and is targeting a return to winning form at the Nürburgring.

TOYOTA trails by 32.5 points in the manufacturers' standings, while the #8 TS050 HYBRID crew of Sébastien Buemi, Anthony Davidson and Kazuki Nakajima are second in the drivers' championship, 17 points behind, after winning two of the three races so far.

The #7 TS050 HYBRID will revert to its regular line-up, with José María López rejoining Mike Conway and Kamui Kobayashi for the remainder of the season. Stéphane Sarrazin had driven the car at Le Mans, with José María competing in the #9.

A podium finish for both cars is the clear target at the Nürburgring, on which success has eluded TOYOTA GAZOO Racing since the track joined the WEC calendar two years ago. The team's best result at the Nürburgring, just 90km from its base in Cologne, is fifth from 2015 and 2016.

The 5.137km Nürburgring Grand Prix lay-out, made up of slow or medium speed corners, represents a very different technical challenge compared to Le Mans, which is known for its long straights and fast turns.

Therefore, the TS050 HYBRID will compete in high-downforce trim this week, delivering more grip through corners at the expense of top speed. This aerodynamic package, one of two permitted during the season, is the one which earned wins at Silverstone and Spa.

Action begins on Friday with two 90-minute practice sessions prior to the grid-deciding qualifying on Saturday. The race, during which cars can expect to complete over 1,000km, begins at 13.00 on Sunday.

Toshio Sato, Team President: "We have used the weeks since Le Mans to recover our energy and focus on being fully prepared for the remaining six-hour races, starting at Nürburgring. I would like to thank all our fans for the great support they gave during and after Le Mans; now we are pushing hard to give you an exciting race at the Nürburgring. It will be an interesting weekend as we will see Porsche's high-downforce package for the first time, so we don't know exactly what to expect. Our target is clear; we want to score as many points as possible and strengthen our position in both World Championships."

Mike Conway (TS050 HYBRID #7): "I'm looking forward to the Nürburgring and getting back behind the wheel again. We're back in the high-downforce car which was really strong in the first two races so we should be in good shape. The #7 car hasn't had much luck so far this year but we have showed we have the pace so I hope we can again fight at the front and score important points for the team in the World Championship."

Kamui Kobayashi (TS050 HYBRID #7): "Nürburgring is a nice track and for the team it is an important race because it is close to the factory and we all want to come back strongly after Le Mans. I am sure there will be a lot of colleagues visiting the race and they will give us plenty of support so hopefully we can give them a result to celebrate on Sunday. I know everyone is doing their best for this."

José María López (TS050 HYBRID #7): "It's good to be driving alongside Mike and Kamui again; I hope we can stand on the podium together for the first time. I have been

learning WEC step by step so far this season and I feel like I've made really good progress so I can't wait to race again at the Nürburgring. It will be my first time to drive an LMP1 car there so I'm interested to experience it."

Sébastien Buemi (TS050 HYBRID #8): "We are all fully motivated and ready for this race. Nürburgring is a great circuit which I know really well from earlier in my career. It's not an easy track to get right and the weather can often be a factor so we have to see what the forecast is. We haven't had the best results at the Nürburgring the last two years to be honest but we will be working hard to change that."

Anthony Davidson (TS050 HYBRID #8): "The target for us now is clearly the World Championship. We are a little behind after Le Mans but there are six races left so we have a good chance and our car is clearly quick as we have shown already. I really enjoy the Nürburgring, which is much tighter than Le Mans and quite tricky. It's also a traditional track with a great atmosphere and enthusiastic fans."

Kazuki Nakajima (TS050 HYBRID #8): "I know the Nürburgring well and I'm looking forward to this race. It's a good chance to score points for the team in the World Championship as this is now our target for the season. Sébastien, Anthony and I are still in a strong position in the drivers' championship so we want to get a positive result to help us there as well. I am hopeful we can challenge."

TOYOTA GAZOO Racing in 6 Hours of Nürburgring:

2015 #1: Qualifying 5th; Race 5th. #2: Qualifying 6th; Race 6th.

2016 #5: Qualifying 6th; Race 5th. #6: Qualifying 5th; Race 6th.

A German translation of this press release is available on www.RacingByTMG.com. High-resolution copyright-free photos are available for editorial use at www.toyota-motorsport-photos.com.

About TOYOTA GAZOO Racing in the World Endurance Championship:

TOYOTA first competed in the World Endurance Championship (WEC) in 1983, marking the start of a long period of participation in endurance racing. Since 1985, TOYOTA cars have raced in 19 Le Mans 24 Hours races, achieving a best result of second place on five occasions. TOYOTA entered the revived WEC in 2012, combining the expertise from TOYOTA Higashi-Fuji Technical Centre, where the hybrid powertrain is developed, with TOYOTA Motorsport GmbH's support and facilities for chassis development. The multi-national team is based in Cologne, Germany and includes engineers from TOYOTA's motorsport and hybrid department, who deliver technology and know-how back into road car development. Since 2012, TOYOTA has earned 12 pole positions and won 13 races, finishing on the podium a total of 34 times. In 2014, the team won the drivers' and manufacturers' World Championships with the TS040 HYBRID while a year later TOYOTA celebrated 30 years since its first Le Mans entry. TOYOTA Motorsport GmbH combines its role in the WEC project with its other activities, such as the supply of a World Rally Championship engine for TOYOTA's return to the category in 2017, as well as its engineering services business and customer motorsport activities.

Media contact: Alastair Moffitt, Marketing & Communications Manager:
alastair.moffitt@toyota-motorsport.com

DENSO

Mobil 1

ZENT

**AW
AISIN AW**

JTEKT

AISIN

**NIPPON STEEL &
SUMITOMO METAL**

RAYS

ADVICS

HAYASHI TELEMPU

**MITSUBISHI
ELECTRIC**

ETICS

TOYOTA INDUSTRIES CORPORATION

AICHI STEEL

TOYOTA AUTO BODY

TOYOTA TSUSHO

TOYOTA BOSHOKU

トヨタ東日本

TOYODA GOSEI

HINO

DAIHATSU

TOKAI RIKAI

ぼねの東郷

**NPR
NIPPON PISTON RING CO., LTD.**

TAMACHI

**FURUKAWA
ELECTRIC GROUP**

**MAEDA
SHI-EI / SHIBUYA / CANON**

FINE SINTER

airweave

MICHELIN