

IMAGOLIVE

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Data invio: mercoledì 5 novembre 2008 20.57
Allega: image004.jpg; image002.jpg; image004.jpg; image002.jpg; image001.jpg; image004.jpg
Oggetto: FIA GT CHAMPIONSHIP - FIA WORLD MOTOR SPORT COUNCIL RELEASES 2009 CALENDARS

**2009 CALENDARS ANNOUNCED BY FIA WORLD MOTOR SPORT COUNCIL**

The 2009 calendars for both the FIA GT Championship and the FIA GT3 European Championship have been released during today's session of the FIA World Motor Sport Council.

The FIA GT Championship calendar will include nine rounds in total, including two rounds outside Europe. Eight rounds were announced today, with a further overseas race, which will start the season, due to be confirmed during the December meeting of the World Motor Sport Council. The 13th season of the FIA GT Championship will include highlights such as the Royal Automobile Club Tourist Trophy in Silverstone, a tenth visit to the Motorsport Arena in Oschersleben, the Total 24 Hours of Spa, the Bucharest City Challenge, with two one-hour races, another atmospheric evening round in Adria, the ever-popular Zolder, and a first visit to the brand-new circuit in the Algarve region of Portugal. The season finale will be held again at Potrero de los Funes in the province of San Luis, Argentina, which will host the last round of 2008 in three weeks time, deciding the GT1 Champions.

Concerning the FIA GT3 European Championship, which will be entering its fourth season, five meetings were announced today. A sixth round, at the Paul Ricard HTTT, remains to be confirmed at the next meeting of the FIA WMSC in December. The season will start once again in Silverstone, followed by a first-ever event in Adria, which should be spectacular. Oschersleben will be on the calendar for the third time, while September will see the FIA GT3 cars and drivers head to Portugal and the new Algarve circuit. In October, the FIA GT3 European Championship will race at the Paul Ricard HTTT, which held the first-ever test for the newly-launched series in 2005. Once again, the season finale will be at the popular Dubai Autodrome, in the United Arab Emirates.

"Having heard the teams' concerns on the difficult economic forecast for the 2009 season, SRO has opted to reduce the 2009 FIA GT Championship to nine rounds as an exceptional measure," commented Stephane Ratel, Chairman of SRO, Promoter of the FIA GT and GT3 European Championships. "Teams will benefit from our usual package of assistance for the long-distance races, as we prepare for 2010 and the planned World Championship. We are also delighted to visit a new track, the Algarve circuit in Portugal, which promises to be spectacular. We hope this will herald another long-term relationship, especially in a season when we will return to Oschersleben and Silverstone for the tenth and eleventh times respectively!"

Other SRO-promoted series will share the bill at a number of events, including the GT4 European Cup and the British F3 International Series.

The FIA World Motor Sport Council also announced that Magneti Marelli had won the tender to be the single ECU supplier to the FIA GT Championship in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

2009 FIA GT Championship

March	TBA **
3 rd May	Silverstone, Great Britain
23 rd May	Adria, Italy
28 th June	Oschersleben, Germany
26 th July	Spa, Belgium
30 th August	Bucharest, Romania
13 th September	Algarve, Portugal*
11 th October	Zolder, Belgium
22 nd November	San Luis, Argentina*

* Subject to the homologation of the circuit

** To be confirmed by the FIA WMSC in December

2009 FIA GT3 European Championship

2 nd -3 rd May	Silverstone, Great Britain
23 rd - 24 th May	Adria, Italy
27 th - 28 th June	Oschersleben, Germany
12 th - 13 th September	Algarve, Portugal *
3 rd - 4 th October	Paul Ricard HTTT, France **
14 th - 15 th November	Dubai, United Arab Emirates

* Subject to the homologation of the circuit.

** To be confirmed by the FIA WMSC in December

GT4 European Cup

2 nd -3 rd May	Silverstone, Great Britain
23 rd - 24 th May	Adria, Italy
27 th - 28 th June	Oschersleben, Germany
22 nd - 23 rd August	Zolder, Belgium
12 th - 13 th September	Algarve, Portugal *
3 rd - 4 th October	Paul Ricard HTTT, France **

* Subject to the homologation of the circuit.

** Subject to the confirmation of the FIA GT3 round by the FIA WMSC in December

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