



PORSCHE

Press Information

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Sports Car World Endurance Championship (WEC) and the Le Mans 24 Hours

LMP1 test programme concludes for 2013 as Mark Webber debuts

Australia. Porsche has concluded its 2013 test programme with the new LMP1 race car with Mark Webber getting his first laps at the wheel of the 2014 Le Mans challenger.

The Porsche LMP1 completed its final test laps of the year on the Autódromo Internacional do Algarve near Portimão, Portugal. Testing will resume in early 2014. Porsche AG will field two LMP1 race cars in the sports car World Endurance Championship (WEC) which starts in April 2014, with the Le Mans 24 Hours as the highlight of the season.

It was on the Autódromo Internacional do Algarve, Webber (37), got his first chance to climb aboard the Porsche LMP1 racer. The Red Bull Racing Formula 1 team gave the Australian the green light to conduct these initial tests, despite Webber still being under contract.

From January 01 2014, Webber officially joins the Porsche factory team as a works driver which already includes Timo Bernhard (32), Romain Dumas (35) and Neel Jani (30).

“My first day in this fascinating project was an intense experience for me. I would like to thank Red Bull Racing for giving me the chance to join the project so early,” said Webber.

“This is a major and important step for us all. It allows me to integrate with the team quicker and to contribute to further developing the LMP1 race car. We have a long way to go and it involves a lot of hard work. I have no misconceptions at all.”

Head of Porsche LMP1, Fritz Enzinger, also appreciated the goodwill shown by the Austrian F1 team: “I’m delighted to have Mark in the team so early. Red Bull Racing has helped us considerably in allowing this.”

The WEC regulations stipulate that manufacturers run hybrid vehicles in the highest class for Le Mans Prototypes (LMP1). In developing the all-new LMP1 race car featuring a very efficient, high-performance hybrid drive, Porsche’s engineers are faced with major challenges that can only be solved using innovative solutions. Therefore, the race car features a hybrid system that consists of a four-cylinder petrol engine with direct injection and two energy recuperation systems. The recovered energy is stored in a battery until retrieved by the driver. A powerful electric motor then provides additional drive to the front axle.

However, the WEC rules limit the amount of fuel as well as the electrical energy, or so-called ‘boost’, available to the driver per lap. The development of such a highly-efficient drive will have positive influences on production development at Porsche.

Suspension and tyre testing with partner Michelin was the focus on the final 2013 test in Portugal. Previously, the Porsche LMP1 squad had pressed ahead with the development of the new race car on the Magny-Cours (France), Monza (Italy) and Paul Ricard (France) circuits, as well as on the Eurospeedway Lausitz (Germany).

“Between the roll-out of the completely new car in June and now we have made significant progress,” said Enzinger.

“Every single kilometre was important, providing us with new data that brought the development forward. The whole team has worked extremely hard and I would like to express my sincere thanks for this. Our efforts will continue unabated in 2014. Until the start of the season at Silverstone mid-April there is still a lot to do.”

Wolfgang Hatz, Member of the Executive Board for Research and Development at Porsche AG, added: “We always knew it wasn’t going to be easy to return to top endurance racing after 16 years. Hence, our efforts in developing a competitive Porsche LMP1 race car are immense. Up to this point, our engineers in Weissach, the drivers, and the entire team have performed impressively. We are finding new approaches in the development, implementation and application of leading edge efficiency technologies. This also leads to further improvements of the entire hybrid technology in our production cars. Ultimately, our customers will benefit the most.”

To follow the preparations of the LMP1 team in the lead up to tackling the WEC and the 24 Hours of Le Mans, visit: www.porsche.com/mission2014. Many exciting images, films, background information and a multimedia journey through Porsche's racing history await visitors on the homepage.

For Further Information

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Above: (L to R) Wolfgang Hatz, Alexander Hitzinger, Mark Webber and Andreas Seidl

Below: Mark Webber in the Porsche LMP1





Above: The Porsche LMP1 testing at Monza

Below: Paul Ricard

