

A1 TEAM LEBANON COMPLETE PRODUCTIVE THREE-DAY PAUL RICARD TEST

Paul Ricard, 26 August 2005..A1 Team Lebanon today completed a three day official A1 Grand Prix test at Paul Ricard circuit in France, alongside nineteen other national teams which are set to compete in the new A1 Grand Prix series, the World Cup of Motorsport. Basil Shaaban and Khalil Beschir shared driving duties, completing 230 laps in the national flag-liveried A1 racing car. The team recorded tenth fastest time over the three-day period.

Shaaban commented after the test, “I’ve really enjoyed this test, learning so much, working with the engineers to improve my performance and gaining more experience of the A1 race car. We’ve made a good start, but there’s still a long way to go and we need to continue working hard, getting as much track experience as possible and continuing to learn about the car.”

Beschir added, “It was great to be back in the driving seat again and get some more experience with this new car. I am happy with the progress we’ve made; it’s been a very productive three days for A1 Team Lebanon. We’ve gelled as a team, we’ve been able to learn more about the car’s technical characteristics, to try different tyre compounds, and most importantly, get more miles of testing under our belt before the first race weekend at Brands Hatch in September.”

Team principal, Anthony Snook, reflected on the three days of intensive testing, saying: “Our aims for this all-team official test were to learn more about the car’s technical characteristics and give our two drivers more time in the car, to continue the close working relationship between the team and the drivers. We’ve certainly achieved these goals, with both Khalil and Basil improving their performances and the team building their knowledge and experience with the A1 racing car.”

The A1 Grand Prix series will debut at Brands Hatch in the UK, with the grid of 25 A1 racing cars taking to the track for the first practice session on 23rd September this year. For further information visit the official A1 Grand Prix website at www.a1gp.com.

Ends.

24/25/26 August - Fastest times overall

- 1 USA 1.24.177 - SCOTT SPEED
- 2 FRANCE 1.24.392 - ALEX PREMAT
- 3 IRELAND 1.24.561 - RALPH FIRMAN
- 4 BRAZIL 1.24.574 - NELSON PIQUET JR
- 5 NEW ZEALAND 1.24.590 - JONNY REID
- 6 SWITZERLAND 1.24.617 - NEEL JANI
- 7 NETHERLANDS 1.24.646 - JOS VERSTAPPEN
- 8 PORTUGAL 1.24.738 - ALVARO PARENTE
- 9 MALAYSIA 1.24.987 - FAIRUZ FAUZY
- 10 LEBANON 1.25.012 - KALIL BESCHIR
- 11 GREAT BRITAIN 1.25.104 - ROBBIE KERR
- 12 GERMANY 1.25.211 - TIMO SCHEIDER
- 13 MEXICO 1.25.296 - SALVADOR DURAN
- 14 AUSTRALIA 1.25.312 - WILL POWER
- 15 PAKISTAN 1.25.374 - ADAM KHAN
- 16 SOUTH AFRICA 1.25.509 - STEPHEN SIMPSON
- 17 INDONESIA 1.26.291 - ANANDA MIKOLA
- 18 INDIA 1.26.579 - KARUN CHANDHOK
- 19 RUSSIA 1.26.805 - ROMAN RUSINOV
- 20 CHINA 1.27.113 - TENG YI JIANG

Notes to editors:

1. A1 Grand Prix is the first opportunity in any area of motorsport for nations to compete with other nations on an equal basis. Up to 25 national teams will race identical cars with no electronic driver aids. Performance is determined by human bravery, skill and excellence.
2. A1 Grand Prix will deliver 12 weekends of exciting race action outside of the traditional motorsport season, kicking off at Brand Hatch in the UK on 25 September 2005, before travelling to Germany on 9 October, Portugal on 23 October, Australia on 6 November, Malaysia on 20 November and United Arab Emirates on 11 December, Indonesia or Singapore, South Africa, Mexico, both east and west coast USA and China will follow after the winter break. Full details of the provisional race calendar can be found at www.a1gp.com

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