

Media Release

## **A1 GRAND PRIX OF NATIONS, AUSTRALIA DEBUTS WITH OFFICIAL PRACTICE FOR A1 TEAM LEBANON**

**5 November 2005...**A1 Team Lebanon returned to the track today for the fourth round of the inaugural A1 Grand Prix series, moving from the Northern to Southern Hemisphere for this event, the A1 Grand Prix of Nations. Basil Shaaban, one of the two A1 Team Lebanon drivers, was selected to drive this weekend. He posted 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> fastest lap times in the first and second practice sessions respectively.

The first practice session in Australia took place on a wet track with intermittent rain challenging the drivers to find the best set up for the variable conditions. Shaaban used the session to build up his knowledge of the track and the limits of the A1 racing car. In the second session, Shaaban was back out on the tight, twisty Eastern Creek circuit, with the weather clearing and the track virtually dry but numerous red flags hampered his progress.

Shaaban reviewed his day saying, "It's a challenging track and the changing weather added to this, with the car feeling and behaving differently each lap that I completed, particularly in the morning. I think we can find a few places by making some more set up changes, but the one unknown factor is the weather, and this will also need to be taken into account in our planning for tomorrow."

Martin Stone, Racing Director, adds, "Basil lacks the experience of many of his fellow competitors and he needs as much time in the car as possible to learn the circuit. This is made a little more difficult when the track conditions change throughout the day, as happened for these two sessions. We have more track time tomorrow morning and hope that we can improve on our session times. We didn't put on new tyres this afternoon, while some teams did, so the lap times are not necessarily a representation of our performance relative to other teams."

Tomorrow's Sprint race will last up to 30 minutes in duration. With a rolling start at 13.30 local time, tomorrow's race will be run over 20 laps of the Eastern Creek Raceway. The outcome of the race determines the grid position of the Feature race which will start at 15.00 local time with a standing start. The Feature race will be run over 40 laps lasting up to 60 minutes in duration.

For further information on A1 Team Lebanon visit [www.A1TeamLib.com](http://www.A1TeamLib.com).

Ends.

A1 Team Lebanon photographs are available for download from [www.a1gp-photo.com/lib](http://www.a1gp-photo.com/lib).

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