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Arab F1-Hopeful Basil Shaaban Confirms he has Re-Signed with HBR Motorsport for his Second Season in the Pinnacle F3 Euro Series

Dubai, UAE, 13th March, 2008: Arab racing driver Basil Shaaban has confirmed he will be rejoining HBR Motorsport for another attack on the F3 Euro Series in 2008. After a steep learning-year for the 27 year-old with the Austrian-based F3 team in 2007, Shell-sponsored Shaaban is looking forward to competing again in the world's most-competitive F3 championship with a full season of F3 experience under his belt.

"I am very happy to be rejoining HBR Motorsport for my second season in this fantastic championship," said the young racer who was born in Beirut and raised in Abu Dhabi.

"Last year I learnt and improved more than ever before, becoming so much stronger as a driver and competitor thanks to the positive partnership with the team. For 2008 I clearly have to build on this progress, and repay the faith that my sponsors and HBR Motorsport have put in me for our second season in the F3 Euro Series."

The F3 Euro Series is considered to be a key step for drivers hoping to break into F1. F1 teams such as Renault, Williams, Toyota and Red Bull place the drivers from their F1-development programs in the Euro Series to test their top-flight potential. 2007 F1 star-rookie Lewis Hamilton is one of eleven 2008 F1 drivers to have raced in the F3 Euro Series since its inception in 2003.

Shaaban went on to reveal: "I have no illusions that this second-season will be an easy year for me, as the Euro Series fields the most talented and experienced F3 drivers in the world, in top teams that have major technical resources at their disposal. Yet I am confident that with my talent, my confidence and experience gained from last year and

HBR Motorsport's victory-proven technical capabilities, we will be strong contenders this season.”

HBR Motorsport will be competing with the all-new Dallara F308 chassis and the latest-specification Mercedes-Benz F3 engines. Shaaban will also be partnered in HBR Motorsport by the 2007 Formula BMW ADAC Vice-Champion, Spaniard Daniel Campos-Hull who will be contesting his first F3 season this year.

HBR Motorsport Team Manager and 1980 European Touring Car Champion, Siegfried Müller commented: “We have quite a good mix of experience and talent in our driver line-up. Basil improved considerably and proved his ability last season, and for this year he has to pass the finish line in the top-ten and score points so he can show the increase in his performance. Together with Daniel Campos-Hull in our team, we feel confident in both of their abilities to score points this season.”

HBR Motorsport's 2008 preparations are slated to begin March 15-16 during the F3 Euro Series' official two-day preseason test at the Spanish F1 testing venue of Valencia. The team will then undertake four more test days at Estoril, Portugal and Magny Cours, France in the run-up to the first of ten rounds of the 2008 F3 Euro Series championship, taking place April 11-13 at the German Hockenheim F1 circuit.

“I can't wait to get into my new F3 car in Valencia,” admitted the determined Arab athlete, “and to begin facing the challenges that await me in 2008. I aim to take advantage of every opportunity to prove myself and my F1-potential this season.”

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