

Press Release

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Porsche supports "Team Sonnenwagen Aachen" in the toughest race for solar vehicles

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Aachen. The Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG supports Team Sonnenwagen Aachen as Gold-Sponsor with its participation in the hardest solar car race in the world – the "Bridgestone World Solar Challenge." Sonnenwagen Aachen participates 2017 as the only German Team in the "Challenger Class" of the race. Porsche supports this ambitious project of students from RWTH and FH Aachen not only with financial resources, but also with a lot of know-how. "The sustainable use of renewable energies is one of the greatest challenges of our time," says Andreas Haffner, member of the Board of Management at the Porsche AG. "The development of an emission-free solar racing car by the RWTH Aachen students alone represents a bold undertaking. Supporting this research approach is very important to us. "

The 30th edition of the "Bridgestone World Solar Challenge" will take place from 8th to 15th October in Australia. From the starting line in Darwin, the team will race 3022 kilometers along the Stuart Highway through the Australian Outback to Adelaide. The Huawei Sonnenwagen will be officially presented in Berlin on the 20th of July. In the next three days, the solar vehicle will be exhibited at the Nürburgring-Boulevard.

"We are very pleased that Porsche as one of the most important German automakers is supporting us on our way to Australia. Thanks to the exchange of experience with the Porsche Motorsport Team and their technical feedback, we were able to generate some exciting impulses for our own development," said Niklas Kaltz, second Chairman of Sonnenwagen Aachen e.V.

The sports car manufacturer already invited Team Sonnenwagen Aachen twice to visit the Porsche Motorsport Team. Andreas Haffner: "We want to play an active role in shaping the future of the sports car. To do so, we need exactly this kind of young people, full of courage and pioneering spirit, and who are willing to break the mould. These are values that are also firmly rooted in our company culture."



During the first meeting at the Porsche Motorsport Center Flacht, the focus was on topics such as bodywork, electrics, simulation, wind tunnel testing, airfreight organization and team management. The specialists of the three-time Le Mans winning team were available to Team Sonnenwagen for half a day. On the second visit to the FIA World Championship in Spa in Belgium, the young solar race car builders learned about the professional weather monitoring and racing strategy. This combination plays a central role in the solar race in Australia, since the sun alone is the source of energy.

"Just like us, the Aachen students will be pushed to the absolute limit when developing their racing car. The key issues surrounding lightweight construction, cooling, efficiency, powerful electric drive and aerodynamics correspond with the requirements of our Le Mans victor, the 919 Hybrid," explains Andreas Seidl, Team Principal of the Porsche LMP team. During the next visit of the Sonnenwagen Team at the Weissach Development Center in August, wind tunnel tests are on the agenda.

This press release is available for download from the Sonnenwagen Aachen press server at www.sonnenwagen.org. Photos are available there for download as well. Please acknowledge the source.

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