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SUPPLEMENT

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PREVIEW

World's top carmakers take a shot at first-ever FIA GT World Cup

PREVIEW

World's top carmakers take a shot at first

Renato Marques

FIVE of the world's most famous manufacturers have signed on to race in the inaugural FIA GT World Cup. Aston Martin, Audi, McLaren, Mercedes-Benz and Porsche will be represented on the grid as manufacturers' teams, and will battle it out right here in Macau for the first-ever FIA GT World Cup title.

In his statement, Mr Christian Schacht, president of the FIA GT Commission, expressed his excitement to see the cars on track, saying: "This is the result of two success stories: the FIA GT3 concept used in the majority of GT championships all over the world; and the legendary Macau Grand Prix."

Of course, a car without a driver is only half complete, and the drivers' entry list shows the successful combination highlighted by Mr Schacht, with some of the finest tried-and-tested GT drivers in Europe and the Asia-Pacific stepping up for the first FIA GT World Cup. Among them will be five previous winners on the Guia circuit in various categories.

Germany's Maro Engel, winner of the Macau GT Cup last year, will return with the Mercedes AMG Driving Academy. A five-



Edoardo Mortara

Recently crowned GT champion in Japan, local racer André Couto will drive a McLaren

time winner on the Guia Circuit, "Mr. Macau" Edoardo Mortara is lined up to chase his sixth victory in a brand-new Audi R8 LMS.

Engel's teammate at Mercedes, Renger Van

Der Zande, already proved his value during last year Macau GT Cup, finishing second. This year, he will be aiming for nothing less than the top step of the podium.

Hong Kong's Craft-

Bamboo Racing will represent Aston Martin, with former Macau GT Cup winner Darryl O'Young racing alongside two experienced WEC drivers, Stefan Mücke and Richard Lyons.

Brit McLaren also does not want to go down without a fight, and has lined up a set of experienced drivers for the Guia Circuit. Frenchman Kevin Estre, an experienced FIA Endurance driver, is competing

as a last-minute replacement for Briton William Buller on the FFF Racing Team, partnering with local hero and former Macau F3 champion André Couto (recently crowned GT champion in Japan) and Portugal's Alvaro Parente, another very experienced driver and long-time racer for McLaren.

Germany's Porsche is bringing all the artillery, starting with 2015 Le Mans 24 Hours win-



Maro Engel



Renger Van Der Zande

ner Earl Bamber of New Zealand. Bamber has entered as part of LKM



Felix Rosenqvist



Jake Dennis



Lance Stroll

First-ever FIA GT World Cup



Racing's team. He will be partnering with Porsche Carrera Cup Asia's Vut-

thikorn Inthraphuvasak from Thailand and a talented newcomer, Dylan

Derdaele of Belgium. In addition to the five main manufacturers ra-

cing for the title, there will be other entries to look out for. We cannot forget the three Ferrari entries: Thailand's Pasin Lathouras on the AF Corse team, and also Singapore's Mok Weng Sun,

Aston Martin, Audi, McLaren, Mercedes-Benz and Porsche will be officially represented

who will be competing in the colors of Clearwater Racing.

Not racing for the title but always competitive, Bentley will field former two-time Macau GT Cup winner Keita Sawa of Japan, his GT Asia Series teammate Adderly Fong of Hong Kong, and Jacky Yeung, also of Hong Kong – all signed in by Absolute Racing. Out of the factory teams, two more Audis will participate, driven by Taiwan's Jeffrey Lee and Hong Kong's Philip Ma.

All of the ingredients seem to be prepared for a fantastic first-ever FIA GT World Cup.

Racers visit some of the city's landmarks



Participants met with enthusiastic primary school students

AROUND 40 Macau Grand Prix racers visited the territory's iconic A-Ma Temple yesterday afternoon, before heading to a brief meeting with enthusiastic primary school students at the Macau Science Centre.

The legion of top racers visited the temple as a way to mark a decade since the region's historic center was entered into UNESCO's World Heritage list. After that, the group headed for the center, where they handed out autographed posters to schoolboys from two Portuguese schools.

Their appearance in the city also attracted a curious crowd. Local racer Chang Wing Chung, who will be participating in the Formula 3 (F3) event, told the media that he could not wait to take to the circuit.

"I hope I can go faster this year and get into the top ten," said the secondary school teenager, who finished 19th out of 21 last year.

Daniel Juncadella, the 2011 winner of the F3 race is Chang's teammate this year for Fortec Motorsport, a group with a wealth of experience in this region's races, and Chang believed that the top racer could offer him insights into the competition.

Stuart Easton, who is the defending champion in the motorcycle race after triumphing last year, said he has fully recovered from his broken leg sustained during the first British Superbike Championship at Brands Hatch in July.

Renato Marques

Theodore Racing ready for record battle

SJM Theodore Racing is hoping for a record eighth Macau Grand Prix victory this year. It was the team's principal, Mr Teddy Yip Jr, who made the announcement as part of the team's official presentation to the media at the Grand Lisboa Hotel.

"Last year, we arrived in Macau as champions following our successful return to racing in Macau in 2013 with Alex Lynn. This year, we return to Macau driven to capture a record eighth title with a perfect three-car line-up to help us to achieve this success," Mr Yip Jr said.

The team's line-up this year hinges on the success of Macau reigning champion and 2015 European F3 Champion

Felix Rosenqvist, as well as of two prominent newcomers, Brit Jake Dennis and Canadian national Lance Stroll.

The Swedish Rosenqvist, racing in Macau for his sixth consecutive year, will be the team leader. He achieved his best result in 2014 with a win after having finished 2nd in 2012.

"I have raced at the Macau Grand Prix for a number of years and I am extremely pleased to return this year to a place where I achieved success before, this time as an SJM Theodore Racing by Prema driver, a privilege I am hugely thankful for. This

year I return as the reigning champion and also a Champion of the F3 European Championship and I think I have every possible tool to

The city and racetrack look incredible.

Jake Dennis

succeed again," Rosenqvist said.

Partnering with the top star will be two rookies. British national Jake Dennis is

likely to challenge the team leader. And although he is a newbie in Macau, he proved his capabilities by finishing third place in the European F3 Championship this year.

"I'm hugely excited to be in Macau this year for what will be my first attempt. Having arrived yesterday, the city and racetrack look incredible and the people are very accommodating. I had three pole positions and two victories at a street circuit earlier this year so I am feeling confident going into the weekend. It feels great to be part of the SJM Theodore Racing team," Dennis said.

Completing the SJM Theo-

dore line-up is Lance Stroll, a rookie who obtained fifth place overall and a race win in his maiden season in European F3. Stroll, who has a contract with Ferrari through its Driver Academy, expressed his feelings about his first impression of Macau saying, "Like Jake, this is my first visit to Macau and already I can see a fantastic place and what this amazing street circuit has to offer. This year is my first in Formula 3 and I had my first race victory at the season finale last month. With SJM Theodore Racing, I believe I can continue this form and challenge for a very strong result."

Renato Marques

PREVIEW

Returns and surprises for 49th Motorcycle GP

HELD every year since 1967, the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix is one of the most captivating races in the Grand Prix program.

The almost fifty-year-old event has drawn the world's attention, especially among international motorcycle road racing fans and participants.

This year, as has become a habit, the entry list presents a broad mix of motorcycle racers from across the globe, including the best riders from the European road racing championship.

Among the 32 riders from 11 different countries and territories listed to participate are four former winners and competition record-holders: Stuart Easton, Ian Hutchinson, Michael Rutter and John McGuinness.

Easton returns in top form on the hunt for his fifth Macau win, partnering with Ian Hutchinson as part of the Paul Bird Motorsport team, which rides with Kawasaki bikes. As for the king of kings, Michael Rutter, he will this time be riding a BMW. Rutter will be teaming up with another of the tried-and-tested talents on the Guia circuit, the experienced Gary Johnson, who is always aiming for the podium.



Michael Rutter



Stuart Easton followed by Lee Johnson

Stuart Easton returns in top form on the hunt for his fifth Macau victory

Lee Johnston is another of the experienced Guia Circuit racers who will not be missing this

year's edition, at least in part motivated by his three wins at the Ulster Grand Prix earlier this year. Meanwhile, Martin Jessopp, who is always on the cusp of a win in Macau and who came third last year, will give everything for a win this year.

What's more, stay tuned for Honda Racing's Conor Cummins. The man from Ramsey has taken part in some serious battles with Easton on the Guia

Circuit in the past, and is back after two years of absence. Last time he raced in Macau, back in 2012, he finished sixth overall but this year he believes he can do better.

Four former winners are racing this year

Macau's CF Racing Team 32 will be competing for its second year. This time the team, owned by local former racer João Fernandes, has registered two bikes, to be raced by South African Allann-Jon Venter, following his good results last year, and newbie Tom McHale, who drew some attention with an impressive debut on the mountain course at TT in 2015.

NOVEMBER 19 - 22

19th of November (Today)

06:00 Circuit Closed
 06:30 - 07:00 Circuit Inspection
 07:30 - 08:30 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - Practice
 08:50 - 09:20 Suncity Lotus Celebrity Cup Race - Practice
 09:35 - 10:15 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Practice
 10:30 - 11:10 Macau Road Sport Challenge - Practice
 11:25 - 11:55 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T - Practice
 12:30 - 13:00 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Practice
 13:20 - 14:00 CTM Macau Touring Car Cup - Practice
 14:20 - 15:00 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Qualifying
 15:45 - 16:30 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - Qualifying
 16:40 - 17:10 Chinese Racing Cup - Practice
 18:40 - 18:40 Circuit Opened

20th of November (Friday)

06:00 Circuit Closed
 06:30 - 07:00 Circuit Inspection
 07:30 - 08:15 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - Qualifying
 08:40 - 09:10 Suncity Lotus Celebrity Cup Race - Qualifying
 09:35 - 10:15 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Practice
 10:40 - 11:10 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Practice
 11:35 - 12:05 Macau Road Sport Challenge - Qualifying
 12:30 - 13:00 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T - Practice
 13:55 - 14:25 CTM Macau Touring Car Cup - Qualifying
 14:55 - 15:25 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualifying
 15:55 - 16:35 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Qualifying
 16:45 - 17:15 Chinese Racing Cup - Qualifying
 18:45 - 18:45 Circuit Opened

21st of November (Saturday)

06:00 Circuit Closed
 06:30 - 07:00 Circuit Inspection
 07:30 - 08:10 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T - Qualifying
 08:40 - 09:40 Macau Road Sport Challenge - 10 laps
 10:10 - 11:10 Suncity Lotus Celebrity Cup Race - 10 laps
 11:25 - 11:45 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - Warm Up
 12:15 - 13:15 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualification Race - 12 laps
 13:45 - 14:45 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - Qualification Race - 10 laps
 15:05 - 16:05 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 49th Edition - 12 laps
 16:35 - 17:15 Chinese Racing Cup - 8 laps
 18:45 - 18:45 Circuit Opened

22nd of November (Sunday)

06:00 Circuit Closed
 06:30 - 07:00 Circuit Inspection
 07:00 - 07:30 Safety and Rescue Cars - Testing laps
 08:30 - 09:30 CTM Macau Touring Car Cup - 12 laps
 10:00 - 12:00 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T - 2 Races of 10 laps each with 15 minutes break between Races
 12:55 - 14:15 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - 18 laps
 14:20 - 14:40 Special Event
 15:10 - 15:25 Lion Dance
 15:30 - 16:30 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 Intercontinental Cup - 15 laps
 18:30 - 18:30 Circuit Opened