**Children take centre stage at UEFA Europa League matches with Hankook**

**Tonight, Hankook Tyre UK makes the football dreams of young fans come true once again. The tyre maker will provide a once in a lifetime experience during the match between Chelsea and Dynamo Kiev at Stamford Bridge for two British teens. As Official Partner of the UEFA Europa League, the company has provided the opportunity for teenagers to act as Centre Circle Carriers during pre-match ceremonies in numerous Europa League matches since 2016. They have the chance to participate in the opening ceremony and enjoy the match live in VIP seats, courtesy of Hankook Tyre.**

***Daventry, UK, 7th March 2019 –*** As a proud sponsor of the UEFA Europa League and patron of the “Centre Circle Carrier program” at UEFA Europa league matches, premium tyre maker Hankook has been able to provide children (aged 13-16) with the opportunity to be a part of the pre-match ceremony since 2016. Tonight, at Stamford Bridge, Hankook has invited two children and their parents along to watch Chelsea. It gives the children the chance to become a part of the excitement and walk onto the pitch, carrying the centre circle flag during the team line-ups. After the ceremony, both teenagers will follow the match from VIP seats and cheer for their favourite club together with their parents.

The two participants tonight were chosen by Brake, a UK charity that works to stop road deaths and injuries by campaigning for safer roads and supports people bereaved or injured in road crashes.

Brett Emerson, Managing Director at Hankook Tyre UK commented “The Centre Circle program is an opportunity for Hankook to share the excitement of football with its younger fans and as an advocate of road safety, Hankook supports the Brake charity in their quest to stop the tragedy of road deaths and injuries, and to make the streets and communities safer for everyone.”

In 2015 the tyre maker announced the continuation of their sponsorship contract with the UEFA Europa League, Europe’s largest professional club football competition, therefore being an official partner to the prestigious club competition until the end of the 2020/2021 season. Heads from Youth Groups or Road Safety Charities can sign up at the Hankook website for their chance to hold the Centre Circle Flag during a UEL pre-match ceremony.

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**About Hankook Tire**

Hankook Tire manufactures globally innovative, award winning radial tyres of proven superior quality for passenger cars, light trucks, SUVs, RVs, trucks, and buses as well as motorsports (circuit racing/rallies).

Aspiring to bring consumers the utmost excellence in product quality, technological excellence and driving satisfaction, Hankook Tire continuously invests in research and development maintaining five R&D centres and eight production facilities around the world. Bespoke tyre solutions for the European markets as well as European Original Equipment according to the requirements of leading premium car manufacturers, are developed in the company’s regional Technical Centre in Hanover/Germany. Production for the European region is taking place in the state-of-the-art manufacturing site in Rácalmás/Hungary which was inaugurated in June 2007 and is continuously being expanded. Currently around 3,000 employees produce up to 19 million tyres a year for passenger cars, SUVs and light trucks.

Hankook Tire’s European headquarters are located in Neu-Isenburg near Frankfurt am Main in Germany. The manufacturer operates further branches in Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, UK and Ukraine. Hankook products are sold directly through regional distributors in other local markets. Hankook Tire employs approximately 22,000 people worldwide and are selling their products in over 180 countries. Internationally leading car manufacturers rely on tyres made by Hankook for their original equipment. Approximately 30 percent of the company's global sales are generated within the European and CIS-Region. Hankook Tire has been represented in the renowned Dow Jones Sustainability Index World (DJSI World) since 2016.

**Contact:**

Hankook Tyre UK Ltd. | Fawsley Drive, Heartlands Business Park, Daventry, Northamptonshire, NN11 8UG

Zoë Baldwin

Marketing Communication Manager

Tel: +44 (0) 1327 304-146

Mobile: 07948 247048

zbaldwin@hankooktyres.co.uk