**Audi Sport TT Cup queen sets sights on DTM with Hankook tyres**

**The Dutch city Zandvoort hosts round four of the Audi Sport TT Cup this weekend. The junior series is making its debut at the circuit nestled in the dunes on the North Sea coast, with races seven and eight of the season forming part of the support programme for the DTM. The young drivers must cope with variable grip conditions at the 4.307-kilometre circuit, as the wind constantly blows sand across the track from the adjacent beach. In these difficult conditions, the race tyre provided by premium tyre maker Hankook is an important factor for the young drivers, as it offers a high level of performance and consistency.**

***Zandvoort/Netherlands, 17th July 2016*** – Gosia Rdest is the only woman in the field of 16 regular drivers. The Pole first sat in a kart at the age of twelve, when she went head to head with her father. “He was faster at first, but then I was quicker. In the end I bet him that I would finish on the podium in an amateur race. I did just that and was given my own kart as a present. I fell in love with motorsport from the very first lap,” she explains.

In 2011, she was crowned Polish kart champion. One year later she finished seventh in the Formula BMW Talent Cup. After a guest start in Formula 4 Great Britain, she made the step up to the Audi Sport TT Cup in 2015. Gosia Rdest: “When I started enjoying some success, I realised that I could take my hobby of motor racing and make it my profession. I worked really hard to make this possible.”

In her rookie year in the Audi Sport TT Cup, the Pole first had to familiarise herself with the car, the different racetracks and the tyres. “I soon learned just how important it is to manage your tyres. The Hankook race tyre really helped me, as it is predictable and incredibly consistent throughout the entire race. You can also put together several flying laps in a row on it in qualifying,” says Rdest.

Gosia is fully accepted by her male counterparts, although they do tend to find it difficult to get used to a woman being quicker than them. Although the 23-year-old also drives very aggressively, she has noticed some differences in driving style between men and women. “Men always start a race at 110 per cent, regardless of the circumstances, and then sometimes find themselves stuck in the gravel bed. Women usually start at 80 per cent, adapt to the conditions and then increase their speed and intensity.”

Having finished twelfth overall in last year’s Audi Sport TT Cup, the Pole has now set her sights on a place in the top five this season, and is hungry for a podium finish in the coming races. Her main goal is to become a DTM driver and to establish herself on the endurance circuit. After her motorsport career, Gosia, who is studying journalism in Krakow and will complete her master’s degree next year, would like to open an agency in Poland. “It is very difficult to get started in motorsport in my home country. I want to use my experience and my agency to help youngsters – particularly girls – to launch their career in motor racing.”

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Kontakt:**  **Hankook Tire Europe GmbH |** Corporate Communications Europe/CIS **|** Siemensstr. 5a, 63263 Neu-Isenburg **|** Deutschland | | | |
| **Anna Magdalena Pasternak**  PR-Manager  Tel.: +49 (0) 6102 8149 – 173  a.pasternak@hankookreifen.de  **Sven Kaatz**  Media Relations  Tel: +49 (0) 171 8609730  sk@9pm-media.com | **Sabine Spenkuch**  Public Relations  Tel.: +49 (0) 6102 8149 – 174  s.spenkuch@hankookreifen.de |  |  |