**Martins leads the Formula Renault Eurocup at halfway point after successful weekend on Hankook race tyres in Zandvoort**

**Zandvoort hosted the Formula Renault Eurocup at the weekend, for the first time since 2000. Victor Martins enjoyed three successful days at the circuit in the dunes on the Dutch coast. The championship leader defended his position at the top of the overall standings, courtesy of a victory and a second place in the Netherlands. After five out of ten rounds, the Frenchman leads the junior series at the halfway point of the season. Premium tyre maker Hankook has been exclusive tyre partner of the Formula Renault Eurocup since 2019. Over the years, the series has proven to be a springboard to a successful motorsport career for many drivers, including Lewis Hamilton and Kimi Räikkönen.**

***Neu-Isenburg/Germany, 28th September 2020*** – The return of the Formula Renault Eurocup to the future Formula 1 circuit in Zandvoort, after an absence of 20 years, was dominated by the battle at the top of the championship between Victor Martins and Caio Collet from Brazil. Both drivers showed their class, each claiming a pole position, a victory and a second place. They were supported perfectly in cool conditions by the Hankook Ventus Race tyre.

“I was able to defend my pole position in race one on Saturday. The pace was fantastic, and I could manage the Hankook race tyre very well. In Sunday’s race, the tables were turned, and Caio led from start to finish. For me, it was important to pick up points in the race for the title,” explained championship leader Martins, whose advantage over his closest rival Collet is now a slender two points.

The 50th season of the junior Formula series kicked off in Monza at the start of July. Two weeks later, the Formula Renault Eurocup travelled to Imola. By the end of the two rounds in Italy, Martins was only fourth in the standings. However, a brace of wins at the Nürburgring put the Frenchman back on track for success. Despite four victories in total, he has yet to shake off the attentions of his fiercest rival, Collet, who has three wins to his name. However, the top two have pulled clear of the rest of the chasing pack at the halfway point of the season. Spanish newcomer David Vidales currently lies third, over 40 points back.

The Formula Renault Eurocup will also visit some prestigious racetracks in the second half of the season. The young drivers, who must be at least 16 years old, will take to the track with their 300-hp Formula cars in Barcelona, Spa and at the Hockenheimring. The finale will be held from 26th to 28th November at Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi.

Manfred Sandbichler, Hankook Motorsport Director Europe: “That was a great first half of the season, with spectacular scraps and a thrilling battle between the top two drivers for the championship lead. The standard of the field is incredibly high, and the whole environment is extremely professional. It is no coincidence that the Formula Renault Eurocup is regarded as one of the strongest Formula series in the world and has produced eventual Formula 1 world champions like Lewis Hamilton and Kimi Räikkönen in the past. Hankook is proud to be supporting the 50th anniversary of this junior series with the high-end Ventus Race tyre at iconic racetracks in Europe and at the finale in Abu Dhabi.”

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**About Hankook**

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 21,000 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.

You can find more information at [www.hankooktire-mediacenter.com](http://www.hankooktire-mediacenter.com) and [www.hankooktire.com](http://www.hankooktire.com)

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