**Tension rising ahead of penultimate DTM round in Zolder – Champagne already on ice in the DTM Trophy**

**The DTM and exclusive tyre partner Hankook are in Zolder, Belgium, this weekend for the second week in a row. The penultimate round of the international touring car series looks set to be a tense affair. Championship leader Nico Müller (Audi) is just ten points ahead of fellow Audi racer René Rast, with another Audi driver, Robin Frijns, just six points further back in third place. Meanwhile, in the DTM Trophy, the champagne is already on ice. Tim Heinemann (Mercedes-Benz) holds a 94-point lead in the Drivers’ Championship and is looking to crown an outstanding season by wrapping up the title in Belgium.**

***Neu-Isenburg, Germany, 15th October 2020*** – René Rast was the dominant force at last week’s first DTM outing at Circuit Zolder. The Audi driver was able to fully exploit his strengths on the Hankook race tyre in the flowing first section and tight, slower second part of the Belgian racetrack. Two victories, one pole position and a third place in qualifying saw the two-time DTM champion climb into second place in the Drivers’ Championship. With a similar performance this weekend, the reigning champion could move to the top of the table. Championship leader Nico Müller, who has topped the standings since race one at Spa-Francorchamps, will have to improve, in qualifying in particular, if he is to keep his hopes of a first DTM title alive.

However, the Swiss will also have to keep an eye on the BMW drivers, as Belgium proved to be a happy hunting ground for Timo Glock and co. The former Formula 1 driver showed with pole position and two fourth places that he is a force to be reckoned with in Zolder. Fellow BMW racer Lucas Auer finished third to claim a spot on the podium in Sunday’s race, thanks in part to a clever pit stop strategy. “On the smooth asphalt in Zolder, it is important to get the Ventus Race working quickly. However, you cannot push too early, otherwise you risk finding yourself off the track. With the battle up front being so close, tyre management and pit strategies will be key,” says Thomas Baltes, the Hankook race engineer responsible for the DTM.

In the DTM Trophy, the champagne could be flowing in Zolder. Tim Heinemann goes into the penultimate round with a virtually unassailable lead of 94 points. The Mercedes-Benz driver is the high-flyer in the new racing series and has won six of the eight races so far on the Ventus Race supplied by exclusive tyre partner Hankook. The man from Fichtenberg has started from pole position no fewer than five times. The Junior competition could also be decided before the finale in Hockenheim: leader Ben Green (BMW) from Great Britain has amassed a comfortable lead of 36 points.

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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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