**Press Release**

**Heated battle at undulating track in Portugal**

* **Fifth staging of the Hankook 24H Portimāo within the 24H Series**
* **High temperatures, fast corners, and big changes in elevation**
* **Demanding track puts drivers, cars and Hankook race tyres to the test**

**Neu-Isenburg, Germany, 06.07.2022** – The 24H Series powered by Hankook returns to Autódromo Internacional do Algarve in Portugal this weekend (8th to 10th July) after a year away. The state-of-the-art circuit, which is both varied and technically demanding, will host the Hankook 24H Portimāo for the fifth time. For the Hankook Ventus Race tyre, Autódromo Internacional do Algarve is one of the most challenging tracks on the calendar for this year’s 24H Series powered by Hankook.

Awaiting the competitors at the 24-hour marathon in Portugal is a 4.653-kilometre circuit with 15 corners, some of them blind, tricky crests and dips, and big changes in elevation. The high track temperatures pose the main challenge for the Hankook race tyre. “The heat in Portugal means the track can get very hot, which results in increased degradation of the running surface. Some of the cornering speeds are very high, which puts extra stress on the running surface of the Ventus Race. The left side of the car is put under particular strain,” explains Manfred Sandbichler, Hankook Motorsport Director Europe.

The high kerbs could also be stumbling blocks. The drivers must first get the Hankook race tyre up to its optimal working temperature, before they can take the kerbs at top speed. If a tyre is cool and has a low pressure, racing across the kerbs can damage its construction. The many undulating passages, with uphill gradients of over six degrees and a maximum descent of 12 percent, put the Ventus Race through its paces. Manfred Sandbichler: “The high compression values at this undulating track in Portugal put particular strain on the tyre construction. The conditions were similar at Spa-Francorchamps, where it was still possible to exploit the full potential of the Hankook race tyre.”

Temperatures at Autódromo Internacional do Algarve can sometimes fall significantly in the night, resulting in the track cooling dramatically and grip levels reducing. The teams must adapt to this and react to the different conditions by altering the tyre pressures. “Portimāo is a very nice, flowing and fast track, which places great demands on all the competitors. The construction of the Hankook race tyre will be under a little more strain than the running surface, but the general stress level is high. As such, the way the drivers manage their tyres is very important,” says Manfred Sandbichler.

**Schedule for the Hankook 24H Portimāo (Local time)
Friday, 8th July**

10:50 - 11:50 Free Practice 1 - Classes TC, TCX, TCR & GT4

12:00 - 13:00 Free Practice 2 - Classes GT3, GTX, 991 & 992

14:30 - 15:30 Free Practice 3 – All classes

16:50 - 17:45 Qualifying Sessions - Classes TC, TCX, TCR & GT4

18:05 - 19:00 Qualifying Sessions - Classes GT3, GTX, 991 & 992

20:30 - 22:00 Night Practice

**Saturday, 9th July**

10:30 - 11:00 Warm-Up

14:00 Start of Hankook 24H Portimāo 2022

**Sunday, 10th July**

14:00 Finish of Hankook 24H Portimāo 2022

**Hankook in Motorsport**

For years, Hankook has been one of the first ports of call for high-end motorsport products. The premium tyre maker’s involvement in motor racing covers a broad spectrum. Hankook supplies its high-end products to world-renowned racing series, as well as high-class junior formats and popular grassroot events. The successful Ventus Race line of tyres is used at racetracks all over the world. Experienced Hankook engineers and their service crews are on site to help the teams get the best possible performance out of their cars on the Hankook race tyres. With new collaborations and partnerships, the company is constantly strengthening its status as a global player on the motorsport scene.

The portfolio of series supplied by Hankook includes the 24H Series powered by Hankook, which takes place in seven countries on three continents. With Hankook as exclusive tyre partner and title sponsor, this has developed into one of the strongest endurance series in the world. The premium tyre maker has also supported the W Series since it was launched in 2019. The FIA Formula series, which is reserved for female drivers, lines up on Hankook race tyres and features on the support programme for Formula 1. Hankook has also been a partner of the DTM Trophy from the word go, and has supplied the prestigious GT4 series with the internationally tried-and-tested Ventus Race tyre since the inaugural season in 2020. The involvement in motorsport also includes various Formula 4 formats, TCR series, one-make cups for a wide range of manufacturers, and assorted racing events.

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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