



**PORSCHE**

Press Release

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LMP1 qualifying FIA World Endurance Championship, round 6, Austin, Texas (USA)

### **Both Porsche 919 Hybrids on front row once again**

**Stuttgart.** The two Porsche 919 Hybrids monopolize the front row for the six-hour race on Saturday in Austin, Texas (USA). The reigning world champion Neel Jani (CH), André Lotterer (DE) and Nick Tandy (GB) will start from pole position. The championship leading Le Mans winners, Earl Bamber (NZ), Timo Bernhard (DE) and Brendon Hartley (NZ) qualified second for the sixth round of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC). The session was held in hot conditions with a 33 degree Celsius ambient temperature and 44 degree Celsius track temperature.

In the WEC, the average of the two fastest laps of two drivers counts for the qualifying result. Jani did the overall fastest lap on the 5.513 kilometre long Circuit of The Americas in 1:44.656 minutes. Afterwards, Tandy held his nerve when he had to go on a second lap in the 20 minutes long session. His first lap time was deleted because of exceeding track limits. Tandy managed another top lap time. With an average time of 1:44.741 minutes, car number 1 stayed on P1. Bamber/Bernhard achieved an average time of 1:44.994 minutes for car number 2. All four Porsche drivers topped last year's best mark of 1:45.703 minutes set by Lotterer in an Audi.

It is the 18<sup>th</sup> pole position for the Porsche 919 Hybrid since its debut in 2014 and the third this year. Less than two weeks ago, Porsche managed a front row lock-out in Mexico City. However, the qualifying success of 2015 will remain historically unique: Back then no car other than a Porsche 919 Hybrid made it on to the front row all year at a time when three manufacturers contested the ultra-competitive LMP1 category.

In the third free practice on Friday morning, the two Porsches came second and third.

Before the six-hour race that starts at noon on Saturday, Porsche has scored 199 points in the manufacturers' world championship with Toyota on 141.5 points. In the drivers' rankings, Bamber/Bernhard/Hartley lead with 134 points. After wins in Le Mans, at the Nürburgring and in Mexico, they are 41 points ahead of the best placed Toyota trio. Jani/Lotterer/Tandy lie third in the championship (65 points).

### **The Porsche LMP Team after qualifying**

**Fritz Enzinger, Vice President LMP1:** "Once again the level of how perfect the team prepares both our 919 Hybrids is impressive. Additionally, a great performance by our drivers, earned us a second consecutive front row lock-out. That's obviously ideal for the start of the race and apparently our cars quite like the high temperatures. We are very much looking forward to tomorrow."

**Andreas Seidl, Team Principal:** "Considering the extra load that comes from the heat, this team performance is especially remarkable. Having both our Porsche 919 Hybrids on the front row gives us the best chance for the race. However, we expect the same high temperatures tomorrow and therefore the six-hour race will feel extremely long. But with all what we have learnt during free practice in the recent days, we feel well prepared for round six of the championship."

### **Drivers Porsche 919 Hybrid car number 1:**

**Neel Jani (33, Switzerland):** "Achieving the second pole position for our car this year is just a super feeling. It was also an exciting session when Nick had to go again. Our car, as well as us drivers, coped well with the heat. I'm looking forward to tomorrow's race."

**Nick Tandy (32, Great Britain):** "On my first lap I hit the kerb on the inside of turn 19. The car jumped and I then ran wide on the exit. Track limits are limits, we all

know that and in case anything unforeseen happens, we always leave ourselves enough time for a second run. On this second lap, I had a good idea of how the track was plus how the car was and I felt very comfortable.”

### Drivers Porsche 919 Hybrid car number 2

**Earl Bamber (27, New Zealand):** “It was a close qualifying. Timo had a good lap on our car but I made a few mistakes on my lap that cost us pole position today. Well done for car number 1 and let’s have a good race tomorrow.”

**Timo Bernhard (36, Germany):** “This was once again a superb team effort. It is very close between our two cars and, of course, both want to be in front. Congratulations to our sister car for pole position!”

### TV and live streaming:

- The official WEC App can be downloaded free of charge with an extended (not free of charge) version available which includes full live streaming and full timing. The live stream is voiced by the FIA WEC TV team including live interviews from the pits.
- The WEC races can be followed on various international TV channels around the world. For details click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7n9amhn>

All scores: <http://www.fiawec.com/en/season/result>

All results: <http://fiawec.alkamelsystems.com>

**Note:** At <https://presse.porsche.de> text, image and video material on the LMP1 programme is freely accessible. The link <https://presskit.porsche.de/motorsport/en/mediaguide/index.html> takes you straight to the Porsche Motorsport Media Guide. The LMP1 twitter feed @Porsche\_Team broadcasts information, photos and video material live from the race track. Further live features from the races are available at [www.porsche.com/fiawec](http://www.porsche.com/fiawec). For further press content, please visit the Newsroom at [www.newsroom.porsche.com](http://www.newsroom.porsche.com). Video news is available at [www.vimeo.com/porschenewsroom](http://www.vimeo.com/porschenewsroom).