Press Release   June 15, 2017

GT Qualifying – World Endurance Championship WEC, Round 3, Le Mans 24 Hours/France

New 911 RSR takes up Le Mans debut from fourth grid row

Stuttgart. The fight for pole position for the 24 Hours of Le Mans was fierce and gripping to the end. In the qualifying sessions until midnight Thursday on the 13.629-kilometre Circuit des 24 Heures, 60 vehicles battled hard for the best grid positions at the French long-distance classic. In the traditionally strongly supported GTE-Pro class, in which five automobile manufacturers pit themselves against each other, the new Porsche 911 RSR with the starting number 92 turned the seventh fastest qualifying lap, narrowly missing out on one of the front spots by a mere 1.010 seconds. Porsche Motorsport in Weissach designed the 510 hp race car based on the seventh generation of the iconic 911 sports car. This is its maiden Le Mans campaign. Sharing driving duties in the #92 contender are Michael Christensen (Denmark), Kévin Estre (France) and Dirk Werner (Germany). The second 911 RSR (#91) fielded by the Porsche GT Team and manned by Richard Lietz (Austria) and his French teammates Frédéric Makowiecki and Patrick Pilet take up the endurance race from the 13th grid spot.

The swiftest Porsche in the GTE-Am class, in which three customer teams field four 2015-spec 911 RSR, was the number 77 car run by Dempsey Proton Racing in fourth. One of the drivers is the Porsche Young Professional, Matteo Cairoli (Italy).

The Le Mans 24-hour race takes off on Saturday at 15.00 hours.

Qualifying quotes

Dr. Frank-Steffen Walliser, Vice President Motorsport and GT Cars: "The qualifying is over and now it's time to go racing. We managed to improve from session to session, but so did our competition. In the end, the racetrack became significantly faster but unfortunately we couldn't make the most of it. Our main focus was on preparing for the race, especially on the tyres because, with such high temperatures, they play an important role. All the vehicles in the GT classes were very close, so in this respect we're sure to witness an extremely exciting race."

Richard Lietz (911 RSR #91): "Our 911 RSR ran very well. I'm happy with it. The problem in the qualifying was that we didn't get a clear lap without much traffic. Still, now we're concentrating on the race, where we'll have enough time to work our way further up the field."

Frédéric Makowiecki (911 RSR #91): "In today's qualifying sessions we tested various things to find a perfect race setup for our 911 RSR. We managed to improve the stability at the rear yesterday and hence made great progress with the setup. Our car is now excellently balanced and we're tackling the race feeling well prepared and confident."

Patrick Pilet (911 RSR #91): "At the beginning of the second qualifying I drove at race pace to test the tyres. That worked well and I was very happy. I then tried to turn a fast qualifying lap but I encountered too much traffic and returned to the pits. Compared to yesterday, we've taken a big step forward with our 911 RSR, but now we need to improve even more in the race if we want to match the pace of our strongest competitors."

Michael Christensen (911 RSR #92): "In the last qualifying session we were eager to put in a good lap and we managed that. We could have possibly done better here or there, but I'm satisfied with our time. The car felt very good, which means that we've found a good setup. After turning our quick laps we concentrated on long runs to see how the tyres would respond over the distance."

Kévin Estre (911 RSR #92): "Michael clocked a good time in qualifying with fresh tyres. Afterwards we concentrated on finding the best race setup. We improved

again, and I was considerably faster than yesterday. This is something we can build on. Now we have to sit down together and talk about the best race strategy."

Dirk Werner (911 RSR #92): "In the second qualifying I drove a long run so that we could get an even better idea of our tyre situation. Despite the lengthy interruption, this worked very well. I had very little traffic and I got a good feel for the tyres. It was important for the race preparation to see how our tyres behaved over a stint. In this respect I'm actually quite pleased. After that I notched up a few more kilometres. For me personally this was very helpful to familiarise myself with the circuit even more. Now I feel ready and I'm looking forward to the race."

Patrick Long (911 RSR #93): "The first qualifying on Wednesday evening was very difficult because we simply didn't get a clear run. For this reason we took a gamble today and went out in the early evening on fresh tyres. That paid off. We encountered hardly any traffic for one lap and our pace was also really good. We're happy. The race can start."

Matteo Cairoli (911 RSR #77): "At my last attempt to turn a fast qualifying lap there were a lot of cars out on the track. On top of this, the yellow flag came out twice in the last sector. That's why it didn't work with pole position unfortunately. We're now facing a 24-hour race and we're very well prepared for it."

Qualifying result

GTE-Pro class

1. Turner/Adam/Serra (GB/GB/BRA), Aston Martin, 3:50.837 minutes
2. Calado/PierGuidi/di Grassi (I/I/BRA), Ferrari 488 GTE, + 0.191 seconds
3. Thiim/Soerensen/Stanaway (DK/DK/NZ), Aston Martin, + 0.201
4. Rigon/Bird/Molina (I/GB/E), Ferrari 488 GTE, + 0.249
5. Briscoe/Westbrook/Dixon (AUS/GB/AUS), Ford GT, + 0.395
6. Magnussen/Garcia/Taylor (DK/E/USA), Chevrolet Corvette, + 0.647
7. Christensen/Estre/Werner (DK/F/D), Porsche 911 RSR, + 1.010
8. Mücke/Pla/Johnson (D/F/USA), Ford GT, + 1.154
9. Priaulx/Tincknell/Derani (GB/GB/BRA), Ford GT, + 1.171
10. Gavin/Milner/Fässler (GB/USA/CH), Chevrolet Corvette, + 1.180
13. Lietz/Makowiecki/Pilet (A/F/F), Porsche 911 RSR, + 1.756

GTE-Am class

1. Rees/Brandela/Philippon (BRA/F/F), Chevrolet Corvette, 3:52.834 minutes

2. Dalla Lana/Lamy/Lauda (CAN/P/A), Aston Martin, + 0.390 seconds

3. MacNeil/Sweedler/Bell (USA/USA/USA), Ferrari 488 GTE, + 0.469

4. Ried/Cairoli/Dienst (D/I/D), Porsche 911 RSR, + 0.538

10. Long/Al Faisal/Hedlund (USA/KSA/USA), Porsche 911 RSR, + 1.778

13. Bachler/Lemeret/Al Qubaisi (A/B/UAE), Porsche 911 RSR, + 2.625

15. Wainwright/Barker/Foster (GB/GB/GB), Porsche 911 RSR, + 3.635

<u>Please note:</u> Photos and videos of Le Mans 24-hour race and the Sports Car World Endurance Championship WEC are available for journalists from the Porsche Press Database on **https://presse.porsche.de**. The Twitter channel **@PorscheRaces** provides live updates with the latest information and photos from race tracks around the world. The 2017 digital Motorsport Media Guide is available on **https://presse.porsche.de/motorsport**. Porsche Communication provides an innovative service for journalists, bloggers and online multipliers under **www.newsroom.porsche.com**.