



**PORSCHE**

Press Release

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FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC), round 5, Fuji (Japan), LMP1 Free Practice

### **Smooth start to the Fuji race weekend, German race for 2015 announced**

**Stuttgart.** The Porsche Team with the two 919 Hybrid Le Mans prototypes enjoyed a trouble free first day at the picturesque, but challenging, Fuji Raceway, which is located about a hundred kilometres southwest of Japan's capital of Tokyo. Both 90-minute free practice sessions before the fifth round of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) on Friday got underway in ideal track conditions with ambient temperatures over 20 degrees Celsius and a dry track.

With a lap time of 1:29.021 minutes on the 4.563 km long circuit car number 14 was fourth after the first session and finished third in the second session (1:28.441). Car number 20 came sixth in both free practice sessions (1:29.829 and 1:29.672). In total the two Porsche 919 Hybrids covered 170 laps on the first day in Fuji.

### **FIA announces WEC calendar for 2015**

The FIA Endurance World Championship is scheduled to have a round in Germany next year: On August 30 the WEC will have its fourth round at the Nürburgring (Germany) and at the same time celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the legendary 1000 kilometre race. Fritz Enzinger, Vice President LMP1: "Being a German manufacturer, we are certainly very pleased with this news. This event would be another highlight in the WEC calendar."

**Quotes after free practice:**

**Alexander Hitzinger, Technical Director LMP1:** "As it is our first time here, the set-up work for the suspension, aerodynamics and the hybrid energy management was somewhat time consuming. Nevertheless we have managed to complete the other topics on the programme too, including tyre evaluation. We have a relatively high downforce level here for the winding sectors, which obviously hampers the top speed on the straight to a certain extent. Having said this, we are quite happy and Neel's lap time at the end of the second session underlines the positive impression from day one."

**Drivers Porsche 919 Hybrid number 14**

**Romain Dumas (36, France):** "It is my first time here on the new track. I must say the last sector is really tricky, being very tight with a lot of banking and off-camber. It is pretty difficult to find the line there. The long run in the afternoon session for me went better than expected. In the end the lap times were good and the car's balance became a bit more neutral after we had some understeer before."

**Neel Jani (30, Switzerland):** "I had my first Fuji laps today since 2012. We were working on the race set-up and we have been able to improve it, but we are not completely happy with it yet. Tomorrow we will continue working."

**Marc Lieb (34, Germany):** "In the first session the track was very slippery after the rain had washed all the rubber away from the racing line. But on new tyres the balance of the car was good."

**Drivers Porsche 919 Hybrid number 20**

**Timo Bernhard (33, Germany):** "I didn't have a clear lap and the car tends to understeer a bit, but most importantly we have been gathering a lot of data to analyse."

**Brendon Hartley (24, New Zealand):** "It was good to start the weekend with trouble-free sessions, as our Porsche 919 Hybrid worked well. It is my very first time in Japan let alone Fuji, and I like the circuit despite it being a rather difficult one on which different racing lines are possible. Having the ultra long straight on one side but tight corners on the other means we need to find a good compromise for the aerodynamics in order to have a good top speed, but also enough downforce. After I did a long run in the afternoon, I think we have made a few steps in the right direction to improve the car's balance compared to the morning session."

**Mark Webber (38, Australia):** "The car ran smoothly and we had a good start to the weekend. We mainly worked on the balance of the car and evaluated the tyre compounds. Fuji is an iconic venue for sports car racing in Japan and we are looking forward to doing a good job here for Porsche."

**2015 FIA WEC provisional calendar:**

27/28 March - Prologue, Le Castellet, France

12 April - 6 Hours of Silverstone, Great Britain

02 May - 6 Hours of Spa, Belgium

31 May - Tests Le Mans, France

13/14 June - 24h du Mans, France

30 August - 6 Hours of Nürburgring, Germany

19 September - 6 Hours of Circuit of the Americas, Texas, USA

11 October - 6 Hours of Fuji, Japan

01 November - 6 Hours of Shanghai, China

21 November - 6 Hours of Bahrain

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Note: Photos and video material relating to the World Endurance Championship (WEC) are available to accredited journalists in the Porsche press database at <https://presse.porsche.de>. You can also activate the **Porsche Motorsport SMS information service** there, which provides you with all the main news and information. Via @PorscheRaces on Twitter you can get the latest information and photos relating to Porsche Motorsport live from racetracks all over the world. The digital 2014 Porsche Motorsport Media Guide can be accessed by journalists at <https://presse.porsche.de/motorsport>.

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