



PORSCHE

Press Release

September 3, 2017

GT – Race: World Endurance Championship WEC, Round 5, Mexico City/Mexico

### **Podium and second place in the drivers' world championship**

**Stuttgart.** Porsche has made a successful start into the second half of the season in the Sports Car World Endurance Championship WEC: At the six-hour race in Mexico City on Sunday, the Porsche GT Team scored its fourth podium result this season with the new 510 hp 911 RSR, when Richard Lietz (Austria) and Frédéric Makowiecki (France) crossed the finish line as third in the GTE-Pro class after 208 laps on the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez. Thanks to this result, they advanced to second place in the drivers' world championship standings. In the GTE-Am class, in which Porsche's customer squads field the 2015-spec 911 RSR, Dempsey Proton Racing with the Porsche Young Professional Matteo Cairoli (Italy) clinched its second win of the season.

As a dark cloudbank moved over the Autódromo Hermanos Rodríguez and a few drops of rain began to fall, the race seemed to be at a tipping point. With just 40 minutes left to the flag on the tradition-steeped 4.304-kilometer racetrack in Mexico City, a rain shower so close to the finish would have opened the door wide to chance. Luckily, the track remained mostly dry in the final laps of yet another entertaining and gripping race, particularly in the GTE classes.

For the third time this season, Richard Lietz and Frédéric Makowiecki climbed the podium. Third place at the season-opener in Silverstone, second at the home race on the Nürburgring and now third again – the drivers of the #91 car are well placed to tackle the second half of the season, which continues in a fortnight in Austin, Texas. With this success, they have moved up the points table to now rank second in the GT

Drivers' World Championship and are once again within striking distance of the title. The Porsche GT Team has also moved into second place in the team classification.

For their teammates Michael Christensen (Denmark) and Kévin Estre (France), things didn't work out quite as well in Mexico. In the second 911 RSR (#92) fielded by the Porsche GT Team, the pair ended up on fifth place after a far from ideal race. When Michael Christensen tried to overtake an amateur-class Ferrari in the first hour of racing, the Ferrari shunted the #92 car from the side. This incident was one of several for the third-place getter from the Nürburgring. When a caution phase towards the end of the race thwarted their strategic plans, all hopes of catching up were dashed.

The strong Porsche showing in Mexico, where the WEC raced only for the second time, was made perfect by the customer teams in the GTE-Am class. Dempsey Proton Racing with the Porsche Young Professional Matteo Cairoli and his German teammates Christian Ried and Marvin Dienst, celebrated their second win of the season after the Nürburgring victory in the 911 RSR. The joint partner Patrick Dempsey congratulated the team via Twitter immediately after they crossed the finish line. The British drivers Ben Barker and Michael Wainwright as well as Australia's Nick Foster climbed the podium for the first time after securing their best result of the season for Gulf Racing with third place.

Round six of the Sports Car World Endurance Championship WEC will be contested in Austin/USA on 16 September.

### **Comments on the race**

**Dr. Frank-Steffen Walliser**, Vice President Motorsport and GT Cars: "We achieved this podium result at this extremely competitive race thanks to the reliability of our 911 RSR and a perfect performance from team and drivers. This has earned us important points and we're now sitting second in the world championship. The fight for the title is still wide open and exciting. In the GTE-Am class, our Young Professional

Matteo Cairoli once again underlined his talent and contributed to our customer squad Dempsey Proton Racing achieving their second straight victory. I'm also particularly thrilled about Gulf Racing's first WEC podium this season."

**Richard Lietz (911 RSR #91):** "That was a strong performance from the whole team. I would like to dedicate this podium result to my grandfather who passed away peacefully last week. He used to race Porsches and he was the biggest Porsche fan I knew. As much as we're delighted with second in the world championship rankings, it's nothing more than a snapshot. The final score is always settled at the end."

**Frédéric Makowiecki (911 RSR #91):** "That was a tough race that ended well for us. As always, the team gave us great support and Richard's performance today was sensational. I'm proud to be his teammate."

**Michael Christensen (911 RSR #92):** "This race was much more eventful than we would have liked. We did what we could as a team, but it wasn't enough for a podium spot. Now we'll focus on preparing for Austin and hopefully we'll do better there."

**Kévin Estre (911 RSR #92):** "That's was hard. In the first stint there was contact while lapping an amateur vehicle, and that threw us down the field. We fought back and opted for a somewhat risky double-stint strategy, but unfortunately that didn't work."

**Matteo Cairoli (911 RSR #77, Dempsey Proton Racing):** "That was a perfect weekend for us. First pole position and then victory – it doesn't get better than that. The race was not as easy as it may have seemed, but it went very well for us. Thank you to the entire team who made this success possible."

**Ben Barker (911 RSR #86, Gulf Racing):** "What a race – at last the monkey's off our back. The whole team deserves this podium. We've worked long and hard for it and this success will be duly celebrated."

**Race result****GTE-Pro class**

1. Rigon/Bird (I/GB), Ferrari 488 GTE, 209 laps
2. Thiim/Soerensen (DK/DK), Aston Martin, 209
3. Lietz/Makowiecki (A/F), Porsche 911 RSR, 208
4. Priaux/Tincknell (GB/GB), Ford GT, 207
5. Christensen/Estre (DK/F), Porsche 911 RSR, 207
6. Calado/Pier Guidi (I/I), Ferrari 488 GTE, 206
7. Mücke/Pla (D/F), Ford GT, 205
8. Turner/Adam/Serra (GB/GB/BRA), Aston Martin, 83

**GTE-Am class**

1. Ried/Cairolì/Dienst (D/I/D), Porsche 911 RSR, 204 laps
2. Dalla Lana/Lamy/Lauda (CAN/P/A), Aston Martin, 203
3. Wainwright/Barker/Foster (GB/GB/GB), Porsche 911 RSR, 203
4. Flohr/Castellacci/Molina (CH/I/E), Ferrari 488 GTE, 201
5. Mok/Sawa/Griffin (MYS/J/IRL), Ferrari 488 GTE, 199

Complete results of all WEC race can be found on <http://fiawec.alkamelsystems.com>

Current points standings on <http://www.fiawec.com/en/season/result/4116>

Please note: Photos and videos of 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](http://www.newsroom.porsche.com).

