



**PORSCHE**

Press release

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24 Hours of Le Mans and WEC, LMP1

### **Porsche 919 Hybrid going over 320 km/h on a country road**

**Stuttgart.** The 2016 Le Mans event has begun: The Porsche Team has used the official pre-test to set up the two Porsche 919 Hybrids for the 24-Hour marathon on June 18/19. Today provided the only opportunity to test on the 13.629 kilometre long Circuit de la Sarthe. The track includes 9.2 kilometres of what are normally public country roads. This part includes the famous Mulsanne straight on which the 900 HP strong Porsche Le Mans Prototypes (LMP1) go significantly over 320 km/h.

The fastest lap in a Porsche 919 Hybrid, 3:22.270 minutes, was achieved by Mark Webber shortly after noon. The Australian shares the car with Timo Bernhard (DE) and Brendon Hartley (NZ). Being the reigning FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) champions, of which the Le Mans 24 Hours is the ultimate highlight, the trio's car carries the number 1. With a lap time of 3:22.334 minutes Neel Jani was on the same level of speed in the number 2 sister car. The Swiss leads the drivers' standings in the WEC together with teammates Romain Dumas (FR) and Marc Lieb (DE). Especially in the beginning of the day, the track was slippery, but, unlike last year, it stayed dry. In total the two Porsche 919 Hybrids completed 173 laps (2,357.8 km) in seven and a half hours. The afternoon session was red flagged with 30 minutes to go at 17:30 hours for repairs to the heavily damaged guard rail following an accident. The day's best time went to the number 8 Audi (3:21.375 minutes).

#### **Quotes after the pre-test:**

**Fritz Enzinger, Vice President LMP1:** "The return to Le Mans after last year's success is a special moment for us. Along with our endurance test in Aragon, today's

test went without any issues. Looking at the time sheets, for sure we can expect an exciting race weekend. The top four cars are within 1.2 seconds on a 13.6 kilometre long track – this underlines what we have kept saying since the beginning of the year: The competition has become closer and this goes especially for Le Mans.”

**Andreas Seidl, Team Principal:** “It was a successful start for us, which makes us confident for the race. Both cars ran smoothly and we completed our entire test programme in dry conditions. In the morning session the focus was on set-up work, in the afternoon we worked mainly on long runs for the tyres. It was also important to practice all the Le Mans specific procedures with race control, such as safety car deployment and slow zones. As a team, we feel well prepared for the race week.”

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

**Timo Bernhard (35, Germany):** “We had an intense test day, ticking some important boxes. Compared to last year, there are four more cars on the track and some Le Mans rookies made their debuts as well. As a driver you need to adapt to such situations to make the right decisions in traffic.”

**Brendon Hartley (26, New Zealand):** “It was so good to come back to Le Mans after talking about it for a year now. The speed was pretty high during the test, considering how green and dirty the track was. We had a good run plan and programme, and our car feels alright.”

**Mark Webber (39, Australia):** “How long you can drive on a single set of tyres is key in the race, so evaluating tyres was top priority today. It was good for us the weather held off for the sessions and the predicted rain didn’t come. It was a smooth test for us.”

#### **Drivers Porsche 919 Hybrid car number 2:**

**Romain Dumas (35, France):** “The first laps in Le Mans are never easy because of the track conditions. But, regardless of that, it is fantastic to be here again, and

it is such a nice circuit. I always enjoy Le Mans, especially as I'm French and have lived here for a long time. We tried a lot of different set-ups and had no problems. Because of the regulation restrictions, we have less engine power than last year, but the car and the tyres improved and we are quicker through the corners now."

**Neel Jani (32, Switzerland):** "We got a first impression of our speed here in Le Mans today and I'm looking forward to the race weekend. In the end, of course, the early finish to the session was a bit of a shame. I would have liked to find out what was perhaps possible on new tyres. However, conditions are the same for everyone."

**Marc Lieb (35, Germany):** "It was a good test. In the beginning we had difficulties with the balance and, of course, traffic wasn't easy, but both these are pretty normal here at the pre-test. In the afternoon we were running a different aero configuration compared to the sister car. We keep learning and we have never been better prepared than this year. The car's driveability is good and perhaps this is the most important factor for a 24-hour race."

**Note:** Photographs and video material as well as the press kit on the LMP1 programme are available for download to accredited journalists from the Porsche press database at the website: <https://presse.porsche.de>. Go to LMP1 on Twitter @Porsche\_Team for the latest information, videos and photos from live from race tracks all over the world. You can access the digital Motorsport Media Guide at <https://presse.porsche.de/motorsport>. Additional content can be found at [www.newsroom.porsche.com](http://www.newsroom.porsche.com) – the Porsche Communications service for journalists, bloggers, and online multipliers. You can view video news at [www.vimeo.com/porschenewsroom](http://www.vimeo.com/porschenewsroom).