



PORSCHE

Press Release

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Interim report 1, Total 24 Hours of Spa, Spa-Francorchamps/Belgium

### **Strong start for Porsche customer teams**

**Stuttgart.** The weather played a major role at the start of the 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps. Because of the heavy rain, the endurance classic started behind the safety car and was given the green light after three laps. In adverse weather conditions, the 911 GT3 R racing cars mounted with a rear-engine made the most of the traction advantage and snatched one position after the other. Driving for GPX Racing, Kévin Estre made up the most ground in his No. 20 Porsche GT3 R. Taking up the race from position eleven, the Frenchman has now moved within striking distance of the leaders after 90 minutes of racing.

The 500+hp No. 117 customer vehicle fielded by KÜS Team75 Bernhard has also closed in on the frontrunners after an hour and a half. Right behind him is Rowe Racing's best Porsche 911 GT3 R (#998), thus rounding off the Porsche trio in the top ten at the world's most important GT3 event.

A total of 248 drivers tackle the 24-hour classic at Spa-Francorchamps in 72 vehicles. Eleven manufacturers are represented at the 71<sup>st</sup> edition of the Ardennes marathon.

The 24-hour race can be viewed via live stream on the internet website of the Blancpain GT Series ([www.blancpain-gt-series.com](http://www.blancpain-gt-series.com)) as well as on the homepage of the Intercontinental GT Challenge ([www.intercontinentalgtchallenge.com](http://www.intercontinentalgtchallenge.com)).

## Comments after the start

**Kévin Estre (Porsche 911 GT3 R #20):** “I started from eleventh on the grid in rain and on a wet track and managed to make up a lot of positions. It was fun overtaking strong rivals under these conditions. Our strategy is good, the team is working well together and that’s important at a tough race like Spa.”

**Frédéric Makowiecki (Porsche 911 GT3 R #998):** “The start was pretty tricky in these conditions and it was the right decision to start behind the safety car. Luckily, the track then dried, but we have to expect more rain over the course of the race.”

*Further information, film and photo material in the Porsche Newsroom: [newsroom.porsche.de](http://newsroom.porsche.de). The Twitter channel @PorscheRaces provides live updates from Porsche Motorsport with the latest information and photos from racetracks around the world.*

