

Powered by synthetic fuels: European presentation of the GT4 RS

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02/02/2022 Following their world premieres in Los Angeles, the Porsche 718 Cayman GT4 RS and its Clubsport variant have caused a stir at the GP Ice Race in Zell am See. Beyond the spectacular drives on ice and snow, their fuel also garnered some attention: they were powered by renewable petrol.

The Porsche 718 Cayman GT4 RS is an uncompromising driver's car designed to impress with its lightweight construction, extremely agile chassis set-up, sophisticated aerodynamics and unique soundtrack. At its first European appearance in Zell am See, the flagship of the 718 family demonstrated all this in impressive fashion – and with significantly reduced CO2 emissions.

The GT4 RS models were powered by synthetic fuels, which can make an important contribution to

lowering carbon emissions in the transport sector. In this case, the fuel was a renewable petrol based on an advanced biofuel made of food waste products. The fuel had previously demonstrated its suitability for use in high-performance Porsche engines in the Porsche Mobil 1 Supercup, where it was used in all the teams' 911 GT3 Cup cars for every race of the 2021 season.

Lowering carbon emissions in the transport sector

Porsche Board Member for Research and Development Michael Steiner explains: "The huge number of vehicles on the world's roads – some 1.3 billion according to the latest figures – means that the transition to electric mobility is not happening fast enough to achieve the goals set out in the Paris Agreement. In addition, different regions of the world are adopting electric mobility at varying speeds, meaning vehicles with combustion engines will remain on the road for decades to come."

With fuels produced in a virtually CO2-neutral manner, existing vehicles could make their own contribution to rapid CO2 reduction. "We urgently need a solution for the sustainable operation of existing fleets," stresses rally legend Walter Röhrl. "This goal can be achieved with green fuels, which are a sensible complement to electric vehicles." In order to actively drive this development forward, construction of the first factory initiated by Porsche for the production of eFuels kicked off just a few weeks ago.

eFuels are produced using electricity generated by wind power. Water is broken down into its components, hydrogen (H2) and oxygen (O2), via electrolysis. The hydrogen is then processed with CO2 extracted from the air to produce e-methanol. In the next step, known as methanol-to-gasoline synthesis, it is turned into a synthetic raw gasoline, which in turn is processed into a standard-compliant gasoline fuel that can be used in all gasoline engines.

The Haru Oni joint project, involving Porsche, Siemens Energy and various other international partners, is the world's first integrated, large-scale commercial plant to manufacture these synthetic, almost carbon-neutral fuels. Located in the Magallanes Province of southern Chile, the plant takes advantage of the region's ideal conditions for generating wind energy, which will be used as a sustainable source of electricity to produce synthetic petrol.

From 2022, the pilot plant is expected to produce some 130,000 litres of eFuels per year. Porsche will purchase this volume in full – and will initially use the renewable synthetic fuel primarily in its motorsport activities. In the future, Porsche will use the eFuels in its own models with combustion engines – including classic cars.

"It's a great hope of mine that in the future I will be able to drive old cars without a bad conscience because I am running them on eFuels," adds Röhrl. "Fuelling a 50-year-old car with eFuels – that's pure sustainability."

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Consumption data

718 Cayman GT4 RS (WLTP)*: Fuel consumption combined: 13.0 l/100 km; CO_2 emissions combined: 295 g/km; CO_2 class: G

*Further information on the official fuel consumption and the official specific CO_2 emissions of new passenger cars can be found in the "Leitfaden über den Kraftstoffverbrauch, die CO_2-Emissionen und den Stromverbrauch neuer Personenkraftwagen" (Fuel Consumption, CO_2Emissions and Electricity Consumption Guide for New Passenger Cars), which is available free of charge at all sales outlets and from DAT (Deutsche Automobil Treuhand GmbH, Helmuth-Hirth-Str. 1, 73760 Ostfildern-Scharnhausen, www.dat.de).

Video

https://newstv.porsche.com/porschevideos/201962_en_3000000.mp4

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