Like Le Mans – but in the USA: Major endurance test for Porsche at Sebring

14/03/2019 Porsche faces a huge sporting challenge. From March 13-16, the GT teams of the sports car manufacturer from Weissach field four works vehicles in two long-distance races at Sebring (USA).

Two of the Porsche 911 RSR will race over more than 1,000 miles at round six of the Sports Car World Endurance Championship WEC, with another two identical vehicle models tackling the twelve-hour IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship race. The so-called #SuperSebring race weekend requires a massive effort from Porsche in terms of personnel and logistics – comparable to Porsche's largest ever GT mission at Le Mans in 2018.

"The Sebring weekend is a massive undertaking for Porsche Motorsport. We have to transport our entire WEC crew including the cars and all the equipment over the Atlantic. That alone presents a logistical challenge," says Fritz Enzinger, Vice President of Motorsport. "On top of this, our IMSA team competes at the same location on the same weekend. Two factory cars have to tackle each of these

two important endurance races successfully. Everything has to be right." The Sebring weekend also serves as preparation for this year's 24 Hours of Le Mans, where Porsche will again field four works cars against five other manufacturers in the fiercely competitive GTE-Pro category.

Almost 24 hours of racing

"This will undoubtedly be one of the most intense race weekends of the year. The schedules of both series are so tight that we can only use few personnel on both sides. Basically, the two races add up to a marathon of over almost 24 hours. That's definitely on a par with Le Mans, especially on this extremely demanding racetrack. We'll have a 30-strong crew for each of the WEC and IMSA series, plus an additional 15 people for the GT3 and GT4 customer sport programme in the USA," says Pascal Zurlinden, Director of GT Factory Motorsport. "The combination of both works teams is already working brilliantly. One example of this: While the IMSA team was testing in Sebring, the WEC squad used Core Autosport's workshop to set up the two 911 RSR. They have everything that's needed there. That's how teamwork should be."

"The cooperation between the two teams, the exchange of data and information, and not least the perfect organisation of spare parts are fundamentally important," says Fritz Enzinger. "When we contested Le Mans in 2018 with four works cars we finished up with a double victory. So we know how it works. Now "across the pond" we aim to demonstrate the perfect synergy between the teams – in a race over twelve hours and another over 1,000 miles." At the race weekend in Florida, dubbed #SuperSebring, a total of 17 drivers from Porsche's 25-strong driver squad will share driving duties in the factory cars and customers' 911 racers.

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