

Dunlop 24H DUBAI again one of the most international endurance races of the year

GENNEP (November 18th, 2011) – With two months to go before the seventh running of the Dunlop 24H DUBAI gets underway at the Dubai Autodrome (January 12th till 14th, 2012), the field is shaping up. More than 80 entries have already been received for the first international endurance race of the new year for GTs, touring cars and 24H Specials. “Many of our regular competitors are joining us again for the 2012 Dunlop 24H DUBAI, but we are very pleased that several new teams have submitted their entry forms as well”, says Gerrie Willems on behalf of Dutch agency CREVENTIC, organisers and promoters of the Dunlop 24H DUBAI, together with DNRT. “We still have a few places on the grid left, so teams interested in racing in Dubai should get in touch quickly.”

With sports cars like Porsche 997 R, RSR, Cup and Cup S, Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG, Audi R8 LMS, Ferrari F458 Italia, Lamborghini Gallardo, BMW Z4, Nissan 370Z, Dodge Viper, Corvette, Aston Martin and Ginetta all represented in the field, there will be plenty of competition in the top categories of the Dunlop 24H DUBAI. But teams don't necessarily need a powerful sports car to enjoy the fascination of the original endurance race in the Gulf region. Diesel-powered cars, predominantly BMW, SEAT Leon Supercopa cars and 'hot hatchbacks' like MINI or Renault Clio are also very well suited to race in the Dunlop 24H DUBAI and numerous examples of each of these cars have already been entered. Once again, the field will be truly international, with teams and drivers from no less than 31 countries on the list already. This again makes the Dunlop 24H DUBAI one of the most international endurance races of the year.

Logistical challenge

At the end of this month, most of the cars and equipment will be shipped to Dubai by logistics partner DHL from the port in Antwerp, Belgium. To make logistics as easy and trouble-free as possible for the participating teams, the organisers also provide transport from various other ports in France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey and the UK, from where the ships will leave in the last week of November or the first week of December to arrive in Dubai between Christmas and New Year, well in time for the race. “We expect to ship a total of 70 freight containers of 40 feet each”, says Daphne Gengler, CREVENTIC's logistics manager.

Plenty of track time at Dubai Autodrome

Teams and drivers will get plenty of track time, with the possibility of an optional private test at the Dubai Autodrome on Wednesday, January 11th, from 13.30 till 17.30 h. The Welcome Party and barbecue in the paddock on Wednesday evening marks the official start of the event with a taste of genuine Arab hospitality. On Thursday, there will be two free practice sessions, followed by qualifying, partly split up into various classes, and two hours of night practice on Thursday evening. The race starts on Friday, January 13th, at 14.00 pm and will end 24 hours later.

Additional test at Abu Dhabi's YAS Marina Circuit on Monday

As the teams and all their cars and equipment are already in the Gulf region for the Dunlop 24H DUBAI, organisers CREVENTIC have decided to offer an exclusive opportunity to test at the YAS Marina Circuit in nearby Abu Dhabi. "Many teams have asked us for such a possibility and after negotiations with the circuit management in Abu Dhabi, we have rented the circuit for a private test session. This is a premiere as it will be the first test with 24H endurance race cars from all over the world at the YAS Marina circuit", says Gerrie Willems. The 5.554 kilometres long YAS Marina Grand Prix circuit, that hosted the penultimate season round of the FIA Formula 1 World Championship only last weekend, is among the latest accommodations with outstanding, state-of-the-art facilities. On Monday, January 16th, teams and drivers will have the opportunity to test at the YAS Marina circuit from 17.00 till 24.00 h.

Large media coverage with Radio Le Mans and MOTORS TV

The first major motor racing event of the year, the Dunlop 24H DUBAI traditionally gets large media coverage from numerous general and specialist publications and websites. This year, Radio Le Mans, 'the voice of endurance racing', will be reporting live on the event for the first time. Moreover, MOTORS TV will again be covering this international event as well.

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