



## Hyundai Motorsport integrates Chris Atkinson into test team

- WRC specialist Chris Atkinson joins Hyundai Motorsport's testing programme
- The Australian will support the development of the i20 WRC at selected tests in 2013

Alzenau, Germany

July 26, 2013 Hyundai Motorsport has added a third name to its test driver line-up with confirmation today that Australian WRC driver Chris Atkinson will be part of the team's testing programme for 2013.

33-year-old Atkinson will be behind the wheel of the i20 WRC for the first time next week in a private test session. The skilled Australian will support Hyundai Motorsport's main test drivers Juho Hänninen and Bryan Bouffier at selected tests during the remainder of the year.

An experienced member of the FIA World Rally Championship community, Atkinson has a wide knowledge of all the events and terrains featured in the series, as well as a good experience with the current specification World Rally Cars. The Australian is also the reigning FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Champion.

Atkinson recently flew from native Australia to Hyundai Motorsport's headquarters in Alzenau to have a first glimpse at the i20 WRC, familiarize himself with the team and have a seat fitting ahead of his maiden test.

Hyundai Motorsport Team Principal **Michel Nandan** said: "It is great to be able to integrate Chris into Hyundai Motorsport testing line-up for this season and I am convinced he will bring a lot of valuable WRC experience. Chris will support the work of our main test drivers Juho and Bryan. With the combined expertise of all three

test drivers, we will be able to benefit from thorough and comprehensive input at every test session.”

**Chris Atkinson** commented: “It is such an exciting project. After visiting the Hyundai Motorsport factory three weeks ago, I am simply impressed by the team’s commitment and achievements so far. I have a lot of experience of many different WRC cars and events, and I will utilise this knowledge to support the development of the 2014 i20 WRC car.”

-Ends-

#### **About Hyundai Motor**

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Co. has grown into the Hyundai Motor Group, with more than two dozen auto-related subsidiaries and affiliates. Hyundai Motor – which has seven manufacturing bases outside of South Korea including Brazil, China, the Czech Republic, India, Russia, Turkey and the U.S. – sold 4.4 million vehicles globally in 2012. Hyundai Motor, which employs over 90,000 worldwide, offers a full line-up of products including small to large passenger vehicles, SUVs and commercial vehicles.

Further information about Hyundai Motor and its products is available at <http://worldwide.hyundai.com> and [www.hyundaiglobalnews.com](http://www.hyundaiglobalnews.com).

#### **About Hyundai Motorsport GmbH**

Established on 19 December 2012, Hyundai Motorsport GmbH is responsible for Hyundai’s global motorsport activities and primarily for its recently announced World Rally Championship programme. Based in Alzenau on the outskirts of Frankfurt in Germany, the company is in the process of establishing Hyundai’s return to WRC with a bespoke team of skilled staff developing a WRC-specification i20.

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