



Hyundai Motorsport strengthens team to prepare WRC campaign

- Key appointments to consolidate the team in core areas have been made at Hyundai Motorsport GmbH since the beginning of 2013
- Frenchman Bertrand Vallat leads the design office while compatriot Stephane Girard takes the role of Engine Manager
- Alain Penasse to join Hyundai Motorsport as Team Manager, managing the team's operations
- Joining Hyundai Motorsport from Hyundai Motor Europe, Stefan Ph. Henrich heads marketing & communications team

Alzenau, 9th April 2013

Since the appointment of Team Principal Michel Nandan in January, the team has focussed not only on building its bespoke facility in Alzenau and getting the i20 WRC ready for intensive testing later in the year but also on consolidating technical, sporting, and marketing sides the team. With new key appointments in all of these areas, the team is now operating at full speed while continuing to grow rapidly.

Engineering:

The technical department has seen constant evolution since the beginning of the project. Involved in the project since its inception, Chief Designer **Bertrand Vallat** has been working on the i20 WRC design since December, and leads the engineering project. The Frenchman's most recent role was at Peugeot Sport where he was actively involved in the best-seller 207 S2000.

Newly appointed **Stephane Girard**, joined Hyundai Motorsport as Engine Manager - another core role in the team. Stephane carries an extensive know-how of motorsport which he has gained over the years working for various teams including Peugeot Sport, Maserati Corse, Subaru World Rally Team - Prodrive and Citroen Sport.

Sporting:

Alain Penasse will be appointed Team Manager as of 22nd April, playing an essential role in the daily management and development of the team. The 51-year-old Belgian arrives with extensive rally experience thanks to previous involvement with teams such as Toyota Team Europe and Peugeot Sport, with tyre manufacturer Michelin and as organizer of Rally Ypres.

Workshop:

Headed by motorsport specialist **Ernst Kopp** - formerly involved with Toyota's rally, Le Mans then the F1 projects - the workshop is where all the action happens. After building it from scratch, Ernst is now recruiting experienced technical staff to ensure the i20 WRC is in top-form for testing in the second half of the year and competing next year.

Marketing and Communications:

Hyundai Motorsport welcomes also **Stefan Ph. Henrich** as Director of Marketing & PR. Stefan will bring considerable communications expertise with him to the role, including 12 years' at Hyundai Motor Europe culminating in his most recent role as HME Spokesperson. He will be heading up a highly experienced team made of people from various motorsport and automotive backgrounds.

Hyundai Motorsport Team Principal Michel Nandan commented: “We’ve been evolving rapidly since the beginning of the year and made great progress in filling all the main roles to establish our core team. We’re facing a big and exciting challenge, in building a team from scratch and we have now only nine months to prepare for next year. I’m now surrounded by the best people in the business and I’m confident we’ll be ready to meet our ambitious goal to be ready at the start of the 2014 FIA World Rally Championship. While we have a very busy year ahead of us, I believe that team-work together with shared commitment and passion for motorsport are the keys for success.”

-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.

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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