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TC3 International Touring Car series coming in 2015

There will be a new global Touring Car racing championship to be called the TC3 International Series. This new series is planned for launch in 2015.

The bases for the new series is to restore the 'Touring Car Pyramid' concept of cars that can compete at national, regional and international level and will appear in several Formula One events.

The cars are said to look impressive and will be capable of delivering a strong performance while development and running costs will be kept under control to make the series affordable for private teams. The technical principles follow the GT3 philosophy. Performance of the different cars will be regulated through a Performance balance system.

Major car makers have in their range models that may be eligible for competing in this series that is deliberately aimed at creating a strong customer market for the cars while developing a worldwide racing product at the pinnacle of Touring Car racing.

Plans call for at least ten race meetings over four continents. Some of these will be run within F1 events, ensuring a large audience and strong media coverage.

A sister TC3 Asia Series will be organized as well.

Touring Car racing promoter Marcello Lotti will join the company for the opening season.

The highly-respected Italian is clearly excited at the prospect of being involved in the first year of the new series and gave his view of how it will look.

Q: What is the idea behind the TC3?

ML: "This new concept has come about as a direct result of the experiences faced by the different national Touring Car championships. There is a strong demand for competitive cars that can be purchased and run at reasonable costs."

Q: What sort of cars are we talking about?

ML: "There is one car that already meets all criteria I've mentioned: the single-make trophy SEAT León. It has already proved to be the perfect customer racing car, launching a number of young drivers to successful careers in national, regional and even world championships. A number of manufacturers have cars that are potentially eligible for TC3; to mention only a few others, there are Alfa Romeo Giulietta Quadrifoglio Verde, Ford Focus RS, Honda Civic Type-R, Mercedes CLA 45 AMG, Opel Astra OPC and the Volkswagen Golf GTi. All these models are, by their very nature, suitable to answer the need."

Q: What are the aims of the series?

ML: "TC3's biggest aim will be to reinforce the Touring Car category, recreating the basis of the 'Touring Car Pyramid' through a worldwide racing product. The Technical Regulations have been conceived to provide close, exciting racing and these Regulations will be further leveled by a Balance of Performance system. As a result, I think manufacturers and tuners will be able to reinforce and enlarge their customer racing communities and teams and drivers will be given the opportunity to grow and gain experience within Touring Car racing."

Q: Can you go into detail about the 2015 TC3 International Series yet?

ML: "The TC3 International Series will be awarding one Drivers' title and one Teams' title, whilst participation will be limited to eight teams, in order to achieve a maximum of twenty-four cars. Further details will be given in due course."

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