

TCR Benelux test-day at Circuit Park Zandvoort

The test-day for the TCR Benelux maiden season will take place on 12 May at Zandvoort's Circuit Park Zandvoort. "We are happy that TCR Benelux chose Circuit Park Zandvoort for its test-day," said Léon Rijnbeek of KNAF, the Dutch National Sporting Authority. "This is also a confirmation of the support we want to give to TCR Benelux in order to ensure a significant attendance of Dutch teams and drivers." "Taking into account the sound limitations imposed to Circuit Park Zandvoort, competitors of the TCR Benelux will have the possibility to run in three one-hour sessions. The teams that will actually enter in the series will be allowed to test for free," explained Claire Dubbelman, coordinator of TCR Benelux for the Netherlands.

Interest is growing for TCR Thailand

The first season of TCR Thailand will kick off on May 22 at Buriram's Chang International Circuit; in the meantime, the interest from local drivers and teams is growing fast. Racing Spirit, the championship promoter, is also acting as distributor in Asia for the SEAT León TCR cars and has acquired a substantial inventory of parts that is being shipped along with the six cars that have been already sold, ensuring that all SEATs that race in Thailand will be fully supported at the track this year right from the first race. One of the first outfits to choose the SEAT brand for competing in TCR Thailand was the Krating Daeng Racing Team that will field three León cars.



The first picture of the KIA Cee'd TCR

KIA Motors has distributed a picture that previews the upcoming KIA Cee'd TCR for worldwide customer motorsport (above). The official press release by KIA will be distributed shortly, but we have managed to gather some more detailed information. The car will feature state-of-the-art TCR specifications and components, including a 2.0L turbo GDI engine, sequential paddle shift gearbox and CAE optimised aerodynamics package.

KIA has appointed STARD (Stohl Advanced Research and Development) to handle the development for the entire programme.

STARD is a long-term technical partner of Hyundai Motor Company and KIA Motor Company and has been cooperating with the two Korean brands in projects like the Hyundai WRC and the very successful KIA K3S in the China Touring Car Championship. No details about the time plan have disclosed yet, except that the car will debut in the TCR International Series later this year after an extensive testing programme.

FRD Motorsports to build new Ford Focus TCR

The FRD Motorsports Team is currently working to completely rebuild the Ford Focus TCR cars (right).

"Following the technical issues we experienced last year after taking over the programme which had been started by another engineering company, we decided to start over from scratch. We re-designed the car and develop it, which prevented us from joining from the beginning of the season," explained Team Principal Kenneth Ma. The technical development is currently under way in FRD's workshop in Colorado, USA. The team plans to build four cars to begin with; they are fitted with Xtrac racing gearboxes and 2.0-litre turbocharged engines developed by Ford Performance in Dearborn, Michigan.

"We will enter two cars for the full season in the TCR International Series, however, because we expect to begin testing in April, our target is to join the series in May at the earliest," said Brian Ma, Vice President of Technical Operations.

