

2017 TCR #1

World and life



International Series: preview



Middle East: Files champion



Endurance: Audi wins twice



> EDITORIAL

A new, exciting racing season is already on its way. The third since the TCR concept was launched.

The TCR International Series – that is the showcase of this worldwide movement – will kick off in a few days, but TCR competition has already started, in Asia and the Middle East.

The TCR Asia series' opening meeting in Malaysia confirmed that Kantadhee Kusiri, who impressed in last year's International Series event at Buriram, is one of the most promising Touring Car youngsters. But it also unveiled the talent of Ecuador's Diego Moran, the first driver from Latin America to be successful in TCR.

The maiden season of the TCR Middle East Series delivered interesting moments: the victory of 17-year old Luca Engstler in his first Touring Car race, the significant improvement in performance of the Alfa Romeo Giulietta and the final triumph of Josh Files, the first driver to be declared champion in two different TCR series.

The early weeks of 2017 also offered an extension to last year's racing, with the conclusion of TCR Thailand at Bangsaen. And what an exciting conclusion it was, with Kusiri claiming two more victories and Carlo van Dam beating Jack Lemvard in the title fight only thanks to the point-dropping system.

Finally, the first two rounds of the 24H Series at Dubai and Mugello, were the occasions for the new Audi RS 3 LMS TCR to score its maiden victories, proving that it has already reached an excellent level in both performance and reliability.

And there are lots of other topics of interest. TCR will be landing in new countries: Georgia, Scandinavia, the Baltic States and China; there are new brands on the starting blocks: Audi, KIA and, soon, Hyundai and the TCR family welcomes top guns like Tom Coronel, Robert Dahlgren, Norbert Michelisz and Gabriele Tarquini.

These are just some of the early highlights of what we expect to be an amazing season, with hundreds of cars and drivers racing in TCR events worldwide!

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2016 TCR
World and life

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The Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR

2016 proved to be a very successful first full racing season for the Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR that claimed titles in the International and the Asia Series. In the wake of these results, a number of competitors have elected to race the German car in the upcoming season, especially because Volkswagen Motorsport has not rested on its laurels and has worked to further develop the car.

Modifications have been made to the car's outer skin, while the technology under the bonnet has also been fine-tuned.

"The first full season was a great success from a sporting point of view," said Volkswagen Motorsport Director Sven Smeets. "We want to continue to offer our customers a competitive car for their commitments around the world and we have

systematically further developed the Golf GTi TCR, focusing on the aerodynamics."

At the heart of external modifications are the new fenders, with a new profile and new vents improving the aerodynamic efficiency. "The strict technical regulations, which aim to ensure affordable costs and close sporting competition, do not give the technicians very much leeway," explained Eduard Weidl, TCR project leader at Volkswagen Motorsport.



Above: Volkswagen Motorsport key men, from left Eduard Weil (Head of Customer Sports), Armin Meixner (Technical Support) and Sven Smeets (Motorsport Director)

"With the new aerodynamics, we have optimised the performance on fast sections of track by reducing aerodynamic drag and increasing the overall downforce. We have also worked on many detailed solutions based on the experience gained from last year: we have optimised the power development, improved the control of the sequential gearbox and integrated a powerful electric power steering system."

At the same time, the Volkswagen Motorsport technicians in Hannover have also dedicated their time to improving the durability of components that are subjected to great strain.

Roughly 30 more cars are expected to be delivered to teams taking part in the different TCR championships and series worldwide during 2017.





Many new faces in an impressive field

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES'
THIRD SEASON IS READY FOR KICK OFF



It's almost time to start engines for the third year of the TCR International Series! The 2017 season of the global series that has showcased the TCR concept around the world will see a very interesting field, including a number of changes.

First to be named is, of course, the reigning double TCR champion, Stefano Comini. The Swiss driver is switching cars (for the third time in three years after driving SEAT and Volkswagen) and will have the honour to bring to its series debut the Audi RS3 LMS. A new outfit based in Belgium, Comtoy Racing, which plans to enter a second car later in the season, will run the car.

The reigning champion team, Lukoil Craft-Bamboo Racing, will continue to run three cars and remain faithful to the SEAT León. Again, the squad will have a top trio of drivers, all bidding for the title: reconfirmed 2017 runner-up James Nash and 2016 runner-up Pepe Oriola are joined by French star Hugo Valente, who switches from the WTCC. The SEAT camp will also be represented by two cars run by Icarus Motorsports, another new entry, led by US driver Duncan Ende.

Leopard Racing will remain a top force on the grid, with its Volkswagen Golf GTi cars. Jean-Karl



Vernay, after an impressive maiden season in Touring Cars last year, will lead the assault of the Luxembourg-based squad, with a second driver to be entered from Spa onwards. Following an internal reorganization, West Coast Racing has swapped its Honda cars for Volkswagen GTi machines. Gianni Morbidelli will continue to lead the Swedish outfit,

having at his side a promising rookie, 17-year-old Giacomo Altoè, from Italy, who has tasted TCR racing recently in the Middle East Series.

The Honda colours will be defended at the top by a new team from Hungary and supported by national hero Norbert Michelisz, M1RA (for Michelisz Racing).

The Lukoil Craft-Bamboo Racing trio of Oriola, Valente and Nash



Double champion Comini is ready to defend his title



2017 TCR International Series

- 2 April – Rustavi International Motopark, Georgia
- 16 April – Bahrain International Circuit (F1 event)
- 6 May – Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium (WEC event)
- 14 May – Autodromo di Monza, Italy (ELMS event)
- 11 June – Salzburgring, Austria
- 2 July – Hungaroring, Budapest (GT Open event)
- 9 July – Motorsport Arena Oschersleben, Germany (with ADAC TCR Germany)
- 3 September – Chang International Circuit, Buriram (with TCR Thailand)
- 8 October – Zhejiang International Circuit, China (with TCR China)
- 26 November – Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi (F1 event)



Corthals will be at the wheel of DG Sport Opel Astra



The new team M1RA, from left: team owner Norbert Michelisz, driver Attila Tassi and team principal David Bári



The two Civic cars will be in the hands of Attila Tassi, the young gun in his second season in TCR, and Touring Car legend Roberto Colciago, who makes his full-season return to the international scene after winning the TCR Italy title and the International Series' Race 1 at Sepang in 2016. The Alfa Romeo Giulietta is looking

forward to capitalise on the great potential shown so far and will upgrade its efforts thanks to a new team, GE-Force, launched from Georgia and supported by the governmental agency MIA Force, with the country's star Davit Kajaia and Serbia's Dušan Borković at the wheel. For the opening round at home, the Georgian squad will have

a third car entrusted to a local driver. After a successful 2016 campaign in TCR Benelux and the TCR European Trophy with the Opel Astra, DG Sport Compétition from Belgium is climbing the TCR ladder and debuting in the International Series, with Mat'ó Homola and the winner of the 2016 European



ENTRY LIST 2017

#	team	driver	car
1	Comtoy Racing	Stefano Comini (SUI)	Audi RS3 LMS
2	Leopard Racing Team WRT	Jean-Karl Vernay (FRA)	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR
3	Leopard Racing Team WRT	TBA	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR
5	M1RA	Roberto Colciago (ITA)	Honda Civic TCR
6	Comtoy Racing	TBA	Audi RS3 LMS
7	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo Racing	Hugo Valente (FRA)	SEAT León TCR
9	M1RA	Attila Tassi (HUN)	Honda Civic TCR
10	West Coast Racing	Gianni Morbidelli (ITA)	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR
11 *	Reno Racing	Jens Reno Møller (DEN)	Honda Civic TCR
16	GE-Force	Davit Kajaia (GEO)	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR
18	Icarus Motorsports	Duncan Ende (USA)	SEAT León TCR
21	West Coast Racing	Giacomo Altoè (ITA)	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR
23	DG Sport Compétition	Pierre-Yves Corthals (BEL)	Opel Astra TCR
31 *	ASK Vesnić	Milovan Vesnić (SRB)	Audi RS 3 LMS
34 *	Stian Paulsen Racing	Stian Paulsen (NOR)	SEAT León TCR
54	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo Racing	James Nash (GBR)	SEAT León TCR
55	Zengő Motorsport	Ferenc Ficza (HUN)	KIA cee'd TCR
62	GE-Force	Dušan Borković (SRB)	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR
70	DG Sport Compétition	Mat'o Homola (SVK)	Opel Astra TCR
74	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo Racing	Pepe Oriola (ESP)	SEAT León TCR
75	Zengő Motorsport	TBA	KIA cee'd TCR
	Icarus Motorsports	TBA	SEAT León TCR
	ZeLe Racing	Race-by-race guest driver	SEAT León TCR

*TCR European Trophy

Trophy Pierre-Yves Corthals. From Spa onwards, the new KIA C'eed will join the competition. Touring Car stalwarts Zengő Motorsport from Hungary will run the eagerly-anticipated car, with Ferenc Ficza as the first of the two drivers announced. Later in the year, Hyundai will make its debut with the i30, whose development has been entrusted to another iconic name in touring car racing, Gabriele Tarquini. Finally, attending the European events will be a number of race-by-race entrants plus cars and drivers who will be competing for the TCR European Trophy, which will have its grand finale at Adria at the end of October. Among those already known are Jens Reno Møller (Honda Civic) from Denmark, Serbia's Milovan Vesnić with an Audi RS3 LMS (ASK Vesnić), and Norway's Stian Paulsen (SEAT León) with yet more due to join including Grégoire Demoustier and Kevin Gleason. The series will kick off this week at Rustavi International Motorpark in Georgia then it will head for Bahrain to be part of the Formula One Grand Prix event. The European part of the season will begin in May at Spa-Francorchamps as support race of the WEC 6 Hours.

Files makes history by winning TCR Middle East title



THE BRITON TRIUMPHED IN HIS HONDA CIVIC RUN BY LAP57



The TCR season began much earlier than usual in 2017 when the newest regional series held its opening rounds in mid January. TCR Middle East consisted of three events, held in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain, and saw several teams and drivers take full advantage of the opportunity to race in what is traditionally the European 'closed season'.

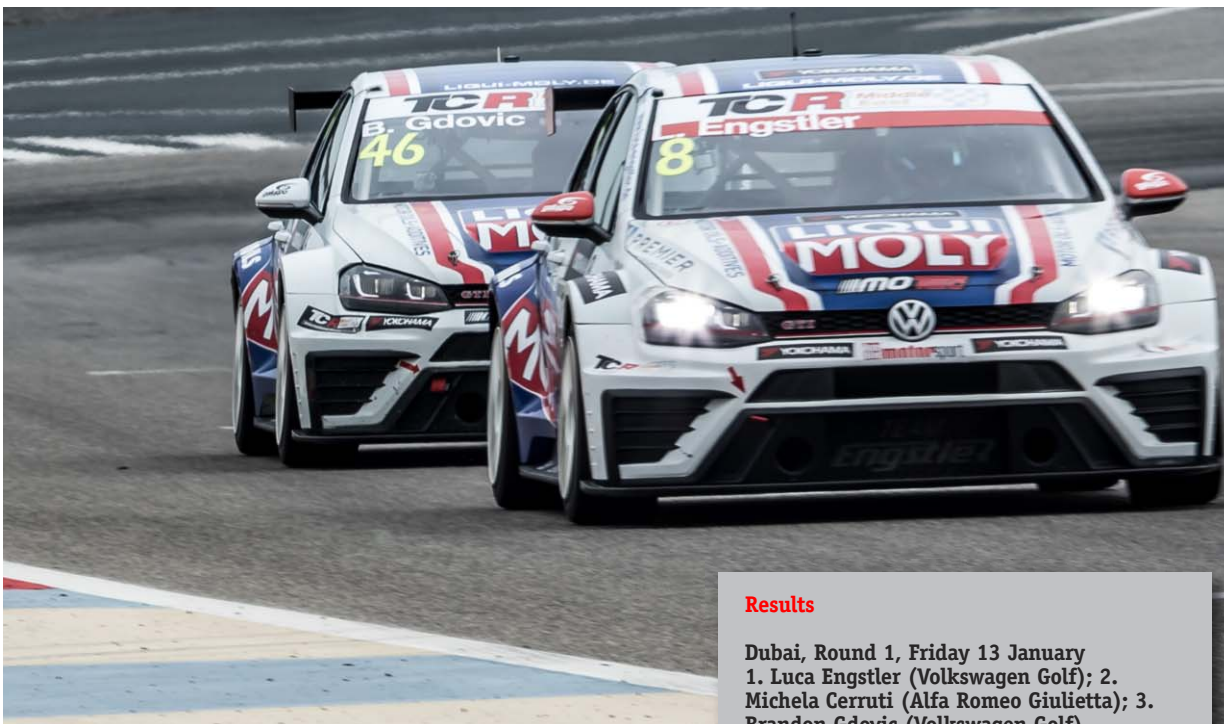
Rounds 1 and 2 saw the honours shared by Liqui Moly Team Engstler teammates Luca Engstler and Brandon Gdovic. Engstler – the 16-year old son of team owner and Touring Car veteran Franz – drove faultlessly to claim victory in his first ever Touring Car race, while Michela Cerruti gave the Mulsanne Racing Alfa Romeo Giulietta its maiden TCR podium by finishing second and Gdovic finished third. In a 1,2,3 for Liqui Moly Team Engstler, Gdovic then won the second race ahead of Mat'ó Homola and Filip Sládečka although a time penalty following a collision with Sládečka denied James Kaye a possible victory in the CadSpeed Racing Audi RS 3 LMS.



The series moved to Abu Dhabi for Rounds 3 and 4, which saw the appearance of TCR Germany champion Josh Files in a Lap57 Motorsport Honda Civic and Davit Kajaia taking over driving duties from Cerruti in the Alfa Romeo. The pair fought throughout Race 1, with Kajaia leading until Files managed to overtake on lap 9 and so the British driver took the victory ahead of the Georgian. An impressive third was Italian teenager Giacomo Altoè, giving the Top-Run Racing Subaru Impreza its first international podium finish. Files had a much easier time in Race 2, with the JAS Motorsport-built Honda taking the lead on the first lap; Files was then able to take the maximum 55 points from the event - 25 each for the two victories and 5 for pole position in Qualifying. Kajaia was second once again, while Engstler was third to keep his title hopes alive.

The Abu Dhabi results meant Files had leapt into the title hunt as the series headed to Bahrain for the final pair of races. He demonstrated his ambition for another TCR title with an emphatic victory in Race 1 ahead of rivals Gdovic and Engstler; the American snatching second place from Engstler on the final lap. Kajaia retired the Giulietta before the start with a broken driveshaft, but the rejuvenated Alfa Romeo then battled for the lead in Race 2 until forced to pull up with severe understeer. Engstler also retired, which meant the fight for the title became a two-way affair. Another great start meant Files led going into the first corner and he then never looked back, holding off the challenge from Gdovic and Altoè to take yet another victory and with it the TCR Middle East title. Despite missing the first two rounds, Files became the first driver to win two different TCR titles, adding the Middle East title to the German series crown he won in 2016. Gdovic finished just five points adrift of Files, while the other high points from the series included the improved performances of both the Alfa Romeo and the Subaru and some impressive results for the two teenagers, Engstler and Altoè.





Results

Dubai, Round 1, Friday 13 January

1. Luca Engstler (Volkswagen Golf); 2. Michela Cerruti (Alfa Romeo Giulietta); 3. Brandon Gdovic (Volkswagen Golf)

Dubai, Round 2, Friday 13 January

1. Brandon Gdovic (Volkswagen Golf); 2. Ma' o Homola (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Filip Sládečka (Volkswagen Golf)

Abu Dhabi, Round 3, Friday 10 February

1. Josh Files (Honda Civic); 2. Davit Kajaia (Alfa Romeo Giulietta); 3. Giacomo Altoè (Subaru XRX STi)

Abu Dhabi, Round 4, Saturday 11 February

1. Josh Files (Honda Civic); 2. Davit Kajaia (Alfa Romeo Giulietta); 3. Luca Engstler (Volkswagen Golf)

Bahrain, Round 5, Saturday 11 March

1. Josh Files (Honda Civic); 2. Brandon Gdovic (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Luca Engstler (Volkswagen Golf)

Bahrain, Round 6, Saturday 11 March

1. Josh Files (Honda Civic); 2. Brandon Gdovic (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Giacomo Altoè (Volkswagen Golf)



Volkswagen cars dominated in Sepang

The Volkswagen Golf GTi cars were the dominant force in the TCR Asia opening event at Sepang International Circuit.

Liqui Moly Team Engstler teammates Kantadhee Kusiri and Diego Moran shared victories and the latter took the lead in the championship standings as Kusiri was involved in a collision during the second race. Kusiri opened hostilities with a comfortable win in the first race, ahead of teammate Moran and fellow countryman Sritrai.

At the start Eric Kwong's SEAT León crashed into the pit wall after making contact with Tong Siu Kai's

Audi, an incident that prompted the safety car. The race resumed on lap 5, with Kusiri leading from Moran, while Lai Wee Sing and Sritrai were in a close fight for third position. Eventually on lap 11 of 13, Sritrai was able to overtake Lai's Honda to complete a 1-2-3 finish for the Volkswagen cars.

"It was a clean race and I was able to create a gap," the winner said. Kwong's SEAT could not be repaired in time after his Race 1 shunt, which helped the Audi cars of Tong Siu Kau and Jasper Thong to the front row of the top-six reverse grid for Race 2.



REGIONAL & NATIONAL



Thong stalled at the start and dropped to last, while Moran jumped from third and took the lead from Sritrai and Tong.

Soon Kusiri overtook Tong and began chasing Sritrai. They made contact a first time on lap 3; then on lap 4 Kusiri tried to outbrake Sritrai at T15, their cars clashed and the winner of Race 1 was forced into the pits for repair, losing two laps before rejoining.

Sritrai managed to close the gap from Moran and on the last lap he tried to find a gap and pass him, but at no avail.

However, after the end of the race Sritrai was demoted from second to fifth by a 30-second penalty he was given for his collision with Kusiri.

This promoted R Engineering teammates Lai and Mohamed Kaathir to second and third respectively.

A delighted Moran said: "I took a very good start and then I pushed on every lap, but in the end my tyres were losing grip."

The series' second race meeting will take place in China, at the Zhuhai International Circuit, on 22/23 April.



Results

Sepang, Round 1, Sunday 12 March
1. Kantadhee Kusiri (Volkswagen Golf); 2. Diego Moran (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Tin Sritrai (Volkswagen Golf)

Sepang, Round 2, Sunday 12 March
1. Diego Moran (Volkswagen Golf); 2. Lai Wee Sing (Honda Civic); 3. Mohamed Kaathir (Honda Civic)





Van Dam pips Lemvard in the title fight

The Bangsaen street circuit hosted the final event of the 2016 TCR Thailand that was originally scheduled to take place on October 23, 2016, but was postponed because of the period of national mourning declared after the tragic death of King Bhumibol the Great. Singha Motorsport Team Thailand's Carlo van Dam was crowned the series' first-ever champion, beating his rival Jack Lemvard of Vattana Motorsport by seven points, thanks to the scoring system that provided for two results to be dropped. Kantadhee Kusiri in the Billionaire Boy Racing Honda Civic won both races at Bangsaen.

In Race 1, Kusiri sprinted to the lead and bid farewell to the rest of the field. He pushed to create a gap, leaving the SEAT cars of van Dam and Lemvard to have a close battle for second place.

On lap 3, van Dam brushed a barrier, but was able to keep a charging Lemvard at bay; then, after lap 7, van Dam pulled away while Lemvard appeared to struggle with his car's

set up and lost contact with his rival. This meant that van Dam and Lemvard were on equal points going into the last race.

In Race 2, Lemvard made a brilliant start and squeezed between the Kratingdaeng Racing Team SEAT cars of Chen Jian Hong and Grant Supaphong that were sharing the front row on the top-five reverse grid and took the lead. He managed to create a small gap, while van Dam was fighting with Kusiri.

On lap 5 Kusiri overtook van Dam for second and quickly closed the gap from Lemvard, eventually passing him on lap 6.

In the second part of the race, Kusiri maintained a comfortable lead on his way to another victory, while Lemvard successfully defended his second position. However, as Lemvard had to drop two results, third place was enough for van Dam to secure the title.

"Being the first TCR Champion of Thailand is something really special. Thai motorsport is growing at the moment and it's great that a new

touring car series was born last year. Driving the SEAT was a lot of fun and I was impressed with the handling. I managed to dominate the first part of the season, which allowed me to build up a strong lead despite driving a 2015 spec car! Although I have mainly been racing GT3 cars, the experience of touring car racing definitely makes me want to do more in the future. I will not be able to defend my title in Thailand, but I hope to be racing a TCR car again soon." said van Dam.

The 2017 TCR Thailand series will kick off on 29/30 April at Buriram's Chang International Circuit.

Results

Bangsaen, Round 9, Saturday 25 February

1. Kantadhee Kusiri (Honda Civic); 2. Carlo van Dam (SEAT León); 3. Jack Lemvard (SEAT León)

Bangsaen, Round 10, Sunday 26 February

1. Kantadhee Kusiri (Honda Civic); 2. Jack Lemvard (SEAT León); 3. Carlo van Dam (SEAT León)







TCR^{24H} Series The new Audi RS3 LMS proves fast and reliable

It didn't take long for the new Audi RS 3 LMS to show its potential in both performance and reliability. In fact, the German car claimed TCR class victories in the two opening rounds of the 24H Series: the 24 hours of Dubai and the 12 hours of Mugello.

At Dubai, the Audi run by CadSpeed Racing with A Tech driven by James Kaye, Julian Griffin, Erik Holstein and Finlay Hutchison finished in a respectable 36th position overall (out of the 94 cars that took the start) and beat the Modena Motorsport SEAT León TCR DSG of Wayne Shen, John Shen, Francis Tjia

and Mathias Beche by two laps. Chris Reinke, Head of Audi Sport Customer Racing, attended the Dubai event and waved the green flag at the start of the TCR Middle East Series' first race. He later commented: "The new Audi RS 3 LMS has been developed for customer racing in the quickly growing TCR series and CadSpeed Racing trusted us by fielding the car in both the TCR Middle East Series and the 24H Dubai during the same race meeting. This trust has been rewarded, not only with a solid performance in TCR Middle East, but also with a TCR class

win in the 24H Dubai. This success demonstrated the strong development of the vehicle and marked the beginning of what will hopefully be a long and successful career of our new Audi RS 3 LMS."

In the Italian event, it was the Bonk Motorsport Audi RS3 LMS driven by Hermann Bock and Max Partl that emerged victorious in the two legs of two and eight hours respectively. Eventually Bock and Partl won with a ten-lap margin from the SICL.com SEAT León TCR DSG car of Gavin Spencer, Ashley Woodman, Frank Pettit and Carey Lewis.



Results

24H Dubai, Round 1, Friday 13 January

1. J. Kaye/J. Griffin/E. Holstein/F. Hutchison (Audi RS 3 LMS); 2. W. Shen/J. Shen/F. Tjia/M. Beche (SEAT León); 3. P. Ulivieri/G. Rdest/J. Allen/JT Coupal/J. Weisberg (SEAT León)

12H Mugello, Round 2, Saturday 18 March

1. H. Bock/M. Partl (Audi RS 3 LMS); 2. G. Spencer/A. Woodman/F. Pettit/C. Lewis (SEAT León); 3. M. Parhofer/D. Vorländer/S. Kuzdas/C. Schmitz (Audi RS 3 LMS)



Hyundai Motorsport announces its TCR project

For its first steps into circuit racing, Hyundai Motorsport has chosen to develop a TCR car that is based on the New Generation i30. Work on the design began at Hyundai Motorsport in September 2016. The building and development of the cars will be completed at the company's headquarters in Alzenau, Germany.

Hyundai Motorsport Team Principal Michel Nandan said: "The beginning of our first project specifically for circuit racing is a very important step. The TCR regulations have proven incredibly successful, and are being embraced by a growing number of series around the world. Our TCR car will promote the manufacturer in motorsport, together with our WRC and R5 projects."

Hyundai signed Touring Car legend and former world champion Gabriele Tarquini as the lead test driver for the TCR project.

Hyundai Motorsport Customer Racing manager Andrea Adamo said:

"To be able to bring such an experienced driver into the project at this early stage is a big step forward. Tarquini is one of the most successful Touring Car drivers and has also shown his ability to work with a team, helping to develop a project for competition. The TCR

marketplace is growing and it is very competitive, with a number of top manufacturers building models for the regulations. Because of this we need to take full advantage of all of our test running over the coming months so we can deliver a strong car to our customers."



Tarquini said: "I'm very pleased to join Hyundai Motorsport and their TCR project. You can see from their rally team that they are working at a very professional, level. This will be my first time developing a TCR car so to be the lead test driver for the project is an exciting new challenge for me. I am looking forward to getting started and using my experience to start developing a car from almost a blank sheet of paper. I met with some of the engineers on the project when I visited the team's headquarters and I'm confident that we can work together to make the car competitive for a very tough set of regulations."

Tarquini will begin his test work with the team next month, with the first completed cars for customers planned for delivery in early December.



40 entries are expected in the ADAC TCR Germany series

One month before the kick off of the ADAC TCR Germany's second season, at Motorsport Arena Oschersleben on 29/30 April, the series is booming. Entries are flocking and no fewer than 40 competitors are expected.

ADAC Sport president Hermann Tomczyk commented: "This enormous success shows that the concept of staging an affordable Touring Car racing series is very sound. You can hardly wish for more than a field of forty vehicles and such

great brand diversity. The ADAC TCR Germany series promises to deliver the best competition in 2017." Promoter Franz Engstler echoed: "Last year we laid down the foundation for a successful future for ADAC TCR Germany. I did not expect the series to develop so quickly, but the growing interest from teams and drivers confirms that we are on the right track, together with our partner ADAC."

Coronel will help Lémeret to defend TCR Benelux title



Stéphane Lémeret will receive strong help in his effort to defend his TCR Benelux title. The Belgian driver will be at the wheel of a Honda Civic TCR car run by the Boutsen Ginion Racing team once again and in 2017 he will be share driving duties with Dutch Touring Car legend Tom Coronel.

Last year, Coronel got the chance to race a TCR Civic during the round at Assen, where he finished in the slipstream of the race winner, Honda's works driver Norbert Michelisz, also with a Civic. This time, Tom Coronel will embark on a full-season campaign as Lémeret's teammate. Only his participation in the round at Zolder on 16 July is still in doubt because of a calendar clash.

"I am delighted to have Tom as my teammate. Not only for his speed and experience, but also because he's a positive person who brings happiness and energy to his team. When he came to Assen last year, he was very nice with everybody and had a great and fair fight with Michelisz on the track," Lémeret commented.



The first entrants in the new TCR European Trophy

The first entries have been lodged for the 2017 TCR European Trophy that will take place in a one-off event at Adria International Raceway in Italy on October 29th.

Although the European Trophy will consist of just one event, only competitors who have taken part in the Qualifying Events will be eligible to enter the Adria race meeting.

Competitors may qualify by either entering the full season in a TCR National/Regional Series or Championship in Europe, or entering a minimum of four European events in the 2017 TCR International Series.

The first three drivers who have committed to qualifying through the European rounds of the TCR International Series are Stian Paulsen, Milovan Vesnić and Jens-Reno Møller. Paulsen, 29-years-old from Norway will be driving a SEAT León TCR run by his own team; he has earned a solid reputation at the wheel of front-wheel-drive Touring Cars and was also crowned champion in the Single-Make Trophy of the 2012 FIA European Touring Car Cup. "I am very excited by this programme. The plan is to take part in the five European rounds of the TCR International Series and then in the

TCR Europe final at Adria. Looking further ahead I will be working to add a couple of overseas events in 2018 and eventually taking part in the full International Series in 2019," he said. After years of racing in different European racing series, multiple Serbian and FIA Central European Zone Touring Car champion Vesnić will compete in a brand new Audi RS 3 LMS run by the all-Serbian racing team ASK Vesnić. "TCR is the next step for me and my team. We are a small team, but we have a lot of experience. My family has been involved in motor sports for more than forty years and we are not afraid to fight with the world's top teams and drivers. Our main goal in 2017 is to present ourselves and our country at our best in TCR International. For the time being we have already the budget for two or three events, but we are working hard to take part in all the five European rounds plus the

final in Adria," Vesnić declared. Møller has been a regular participant in both the Danish and the Scandinavian Touring Car championships, mostly driving JAS Motorsport-built Honda cars and establishing a solid customer relationship with the Italian engineering company. A relationship that the Dane – 2009 DTC Independent champion – has just renewed, as he will race a Honda Civic TCR.

"I am excited for coming back to racing after a five-year break and can't wait to work with JAS Motorsport again, as they have built a very competitive car. The new TCR category is really attractive for privateers and provides top class racing, with a lot of very quick drivers. I expect to struggle in the first part of the season, but I will work hard to be in the right part of the field during the season. For me the European final at Adria is where we need to show our potential and then we'll see for next year," Møller said.



On top Stian Paulsen, left Jens Reno Møller above Milovan Vesnić

The BAPRO dynamometer hard at work in the BoP test

The Balance of Performance test that took place at Adria inaugurated a collaboration between TCR and BAPRO, an Italian company specialising in the development and production of chassis dynamometers for cars and motorbikes. BAPRO Export Manager Mauro Sgarbi said: "Our company has developed a long standing experience with customers like Magneti Marelli, Maserati and Ducati, but the cooperation with TCR marks our very

first step into motor sports. This will help us to develop a series of products dedicated to racing cars that will combine affordable costs with accuracy in measurements."

Chief engineer Mattia Serafin explained: "The bench that we are using in Adria is based on rollers inertia and performs power tests. We place the car on the rollers and, after a brief warm up, we launch it in a controlled acceleration. This enables us

to measure dissipation of power, shaft-power, shaft-torque and the boost pressure." TCR promoter Marcello Lotti commented: "We are very pleased with this cooperation. BAPRO offers high technology products at an affordable cost. We are confident that their dynamometer will prove to be an efficient scrutineering tool on site, during some events of all the TCR series worldwide."



Robert Dahlgren will race in TCR Scandinavia

After many years a Volvo's factory driver in the STCC and WTCC, Robert Dahlgren switched to the new TCR Scandinavia series.

Dahlgren has been signed by PWR Racing SEAT Dealer Team to drive one of its four SEAT León TCR cars.

"I believe PWR Racing is one of the strongest teams in the STCC. We want to develop a winning car that no one can beat. Most of my career has been with Volvo. My decision to switch to SEAT is based on the confidence that we have a winning package," said Dahlgren.

One of Dahlgren's teammate will be Mikaela Åhlin-Kottulinsky, the niece of the late Freddy Kottulinsky who became Swedish Formula 3 champion in 1966 – fighting against the likes of Ronnie Peterson – and won the Paris-Dakar in 1980.



TCR Asia

(after rounds 2 of 12)



Drivers			
1	Diego Moran	Volkswagen Golf GTI	47 pts
2	Kantadhee Kusiri	Volkswagen Golf GTI	32
3	Lai Wee Sing	Honda Civic	30
4	Tin Sritrai	Volkswagen Golf GTI	28
5	Jasper Thong	Audi RS3 LMS	24
6	Mohamed Kaathir	Honda Civic	23
7	Tong Siu Kau	Audi RS3 LMS	12
8	Alex Liu	SEAT León	12
9	Douglas Khoo Kok Hui	SEAT León	6
10	Eric Kwong	SEAT León	1

TCR Asia Cup

1	Jasper Thong	Audi RS3 LMS	48 pts
2	Mohamed Kaathir	Honda Civic	43
3	Tong Siu Kau	Audi RS3 LMS	30

Teams

1	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	79 pts
2	R Engineering	53
3	Team Thailand	26



TCR Thailand

(after rounds 10 of 10)

Pro Drivers

1	Carlo Van Dam	SEAT León	156 pts
2	Jack Lemvard	SEAT León	149
3	Narasak Ittiritpong	Honda Civic	109
4	Kantadhee Kusiri	Honda Civic	100
5	Grant Supaphongs	SEAT León	100
6	Paritat Bulbon	SEAT León	92
7	Alexander Mies	SEAT León	48

Am Drivers

1	Chen Jian Hong	SEAT León	200 pts
2	Nattachak Hanjittakasen	Honda Civic	141
3	Rattanan Leenutaphong	SEAT León	43

Teams

1	Vattana Motorsport	249 pts
2	Kratingdaeng Racing Team	205
3	Singha Motorsport Team Thailand	156

24H Series

(after rounds 2 of 6)



Drivers			
1	Julian Griffin/James Kaye/Eric Holstein/Finlay Hutchison	Audi RS3 LMS	29 pts
2	Mathias Beche/John Shen/John Shen/Francis Tjja	SEAT León	26
3	Philippe Ullivieri/John Allen/JT Coupal/Gosia Rdest/John Weisberg	SEAT León	24
4	Kane Astin/Christian Dijkhof/Daniel Wheeler/Aram Martroussian	SEAT León	21
5	Hermann Bock/Max Partl	Audi RS3 LMS	19
6	Gavin Spencer/Ashley Woodman/Carey Lewis/Frank Pettit	SEAT León	17
7	Siegfried Kudzas/Christian Schmitz/Monika Parhofer/Dirk Vorländer	Audi RS3 LMS	16
8	Gerhard Haas/Claudio Truffer/Patrik Meier	Honda Civic	14



What's next in the world of TCR

25 March	VLN - 63. ADAC Westfalenfahrt	Nürburgring, Germany
1/2 April	24H TCE Series - 24H Silverstone	Silverstone, UK
2 April	TCR International Series	Rustavi, Georgia
2 April	Super Taikyu	Motegi, Japan
8 April	VLN - 42. DMV 4-Stunden-Rennen	Nürburgring, Germany
7/8 April	24 Series - 12H Red Bull Ring	Spielberg, Austria
15/16 April	TCR International Series	Sakhir, Bahrain
23 April	24H TCE Series - 12H Magny-Cours	Magny-Cours, France
23 April	TCR Asia	Zuhai, China
23 April	TCR Benelux	Spa-Francorchamps