

Press Information
12 May 2006

From speedy curves to tight turning maneuvers: Nick Heidfeld aboard the BMW ORACLE Racing yacht BMW Sauber F1 pilot as 18th man on May 15th

Valencia, Spain. The Formula 1, the elite class of motorsports, meets the Formula 1 of sailing, the America's Cup and as part of it, two of Germany's main players. To cut it short: Heidfeld meets Kolb, part two. After BMW ORACLE Racing's bowman Tony Kolb paid a visit to the BMW Sauber F1 Team in Barcelona and watched the team's test drives in April, the return visit from the Formula 1 is due in Valencia on May 15th.

Only one day after the Spanish Grand Prix on the 4.627 kilometer long "Circuit de Catalunya", the next major challenge awaits Nick Heidfeld offshore at the Louis Vuitton Act 10. From speedy curves to tight turning maneuvers: Having been named 18th man, the 29-year-old from Mönchengladbach, Germany, will be experiencing the fascination of the America's Cup live and up close in the first Match Race of the day. Nick Heidfeld: "In the past, I have only witnessed the America's Cup on TV. Now I have the opportunity to experience the races live aboard the yacht. I am really looking forward to the races in Valencia."

Heidfeld will be accompanied by BMW Motorsports Manager Mario Theissen on his trip from Barcelona to Valencia. When the Formula 1 pilot leaves the boat after the regatta, the two will swap places: Mario Theissen will join the crew of BMW ORACLE Racing as 18th man in the second race of the day. The visit by the two top-class members of the BMW Sauber F1 Team is an expression of the close connection with the sailing team – there are numerous parallels between the Formula 1 and the America's Cup.

Tony Kolb also discovered plenty of analogies during his F1 visit in Barcelona – be it with regards to aerodynamics tests, material and data analysis. "It was a really interesting experience. A typical day of testing and the constant work on the set-up of the car very much reminded me of us. What fascinated me was the amount of telemetry data the engineers receive in the pit and how they respond to it. After all, our rig and sail designers are also provided with performance data live during our test sessions and make their conclusions".

ORACLE Racing Ltd.
155-161 Halsey St.
Freemans Bay
Auckland
New Zealand

ORACLE Racing Inc.
2269 Chestnut Street
PMB 689
San Francisco,
CA 94123
USA

ORACLE Racing S.L.
Port America's Cup
Muelle de la Aduana
46024 Valencia
Spain

Internet
www.
bmworacleracing.com

Photo and video material are available from BMW ORACLE Racing at
www.bmor-photo.com and www.bmor-video.com.

For further information please contact:

BMW ORACLE Racing Press Office
Email: media@bmworacleracing.com
Internet: www.bmworacleracing.com