



Press Information

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BMW Championship: Rory McIlroy fully electrified in Chicago.

Defending champion thrilled by the BMW i3: "I was surprised by the speed and agility."

Chicago. In the run-up to the start of the BMW Championship, the penultimate tournament in the 2013 PGA TOUR Playoffs, world number four Rory McIlroy (NIR) and Gary Woodland (USA), who is currently well-placed in 14th in the FedExCup rankings, took the opportunity on Tuesday to check out the future of automobiles. The two world-class golfers tested the new fully-electric BMW i3 in a sporting duel at the "Six Flags Great America" theme park.

This was anything but a comfortable test drive. On a specially marked-out track, the goal was to beat the time of 36.230 seconds set by Matt Hullins, Chief Driving Instructor at the BMW Performance Driving Center. The two pros immediately switched into competitive mode. Both had four attempts, and they pushed each other to ever-improving lap times. Woodland (38.747 seconds) eventually finished with his nose just ahead of McIlroy (39.556 seconds).

McIlroy, who recently became the proud owner of a BMW M6 Gran Coupé, was also thrilled by the BMW i3: "It was the first time I have driven a fully-electric car – and it was fascinating. Compared to a conventional car, the first thing you notice is how incredibly quiet it is. I was even more surprised by the speed of the BMW i3 on this track, and how agile it was in the corners. It was great fun driving this car on this circuit."

The defending champion – like the rest of the top 70 players on the PGA TOUR – will have the opportunity to experience this driving pleasure every day in the future: whoever hits the first hole-in-one on the 17th hole during the tournament week will be presented with a special prize: a BMW i3. The second Hole-in-One Car up for grabs at the BMW Championship is the BMW M6 Gran Coupé on the 11th hole.

Whilst we're on the subject of winners: had one of the pros beaten Hullins' time, BMW would have donated 100,000 US dollars to the Evans Scholars Foundation. As it is,





the national college scholarship programme for caddies will still receive a healthy sum of 10,000 dollars, making them the day's real winners.

On Thursday, it is time to get down to the serious business. The list of players teeing off at BMW Championship, held for the first time at Conway Farms Golf Club near Chicago and boasting a prize purse of eight million US dollars, is impressive. FedExCup leader Henrik Stenson from Stenson faces stiff competition. Tiger Woods (USA), with five wins to his name the most successful player this season, has his sights set firmly on regaining the BMW Championship title he won in 2007 and 2009. Adam Scott (Australia, Masters Tournament), Justin Rose (England, US Open), Phil Mickelson (USA, Open Championship) and Jason Dufner (USA, US PGA Championship) have picked up this year's four Majors. They are joined in Chicago by experienced warhorses like Matt Kuchar (USA), Steve Stricker (USA) and Jim Furyk (USA), as well as a number of the rising stars of the game, including Jordan Spieth (USA).

Note to editors:

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If you have any questions, please contact:

BMW Sports Communications

Nicole Stempinsky

Mobile: +49 151 174 177 25

Email: Nicole.Stempinsky@bmw.de,

Internet: www.bmw-golfsport.com

About the BMW i3.

The BMW i3 is the world's first premium car conceived from the ground up to provide all-electric mobility. Its electric motor develops output of 125 kW/170 hp using power supplied by a lithium-ion battery pack mounted in a low, central position in the car's underbody. Like the extraordinarily light yet extremely rigid CFRP passenger cell, the electric drive system and battery were also developed and produced by the BMW Group. The BMW i3 weighs just 1,195 kilograms (DIN kerb weight) and offers a range of 130 – 160 kilometres (approx. 80 – 100 miles) in everyday driving. This can be increased to a maximum 300 kilometres (approx. 180 miles) if the two-cylinder range extender combustion engine is specified.



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The BMW i3 is based on a new kind of vehicle architecture. The LifeDrive concept underpins the car's visionary form, which is defined by a standalone design language and generous levels of space for all four seats. A signature theme of the BMW i brand is the thread of sustainability running throughout the value chain. For example, the carbon fibres for the passenger cell are manufactured at Moses Lake in the USA using hydro power alone, while the energy required for production of BMW i cars at BMW Plant Leipzig is generated 100 per cent by purpose-built wind turbines.



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