



BMW Motorsport

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2016 24H SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS.

BMW MOTORSPORT MEDIA INFORMATION.

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GT AND ENDURANCE RACING.

INTO 2016 WITH BMW.



2016 heralds a new era in GT racing for BMW Motorsport. The BMW M6 GT3 makes its race debut, replacing the BMW Z4 GT3 as BMW's top model at the major endurance classics and in numerous GT racing series around the world. The highlights of the endurance season are the 24-hour races

at the Nürburgring and in Spa-Francorchamps. Two teams raced on the Nordschleife with two BMW M6 GT3s and works support from BMW Motorsport. Schubert Motorsport took on this role for the fifth time in a row at the Nürburgring. As a newcomer in the BMW family ROWE Racing fielded the most

successful BMW M6 GT3 on the Nordschleife finishing fifth. The outfit from St. Ingbert will contest the Spa-Francorchamps 24 Hours as well. As usual, BMW Motorsport will make many of its top drivers available for the 24-hour races. The ROWE Racing line-up for the classic in Spa-Francorchamps includes BMW DTM driver Maxime Martin, IWSC driver Dirk Werner, as well as Alexander Sims, Philipp Eng, Nick Catsburg and Stef Dusseldorp. BMW DTM driver Martin Tomczyk is also supporting team principal Roberto Ravaglia's BMW Team Italia in the Pro-Am Cup. The Boutsen Ginion Racing team will also field one BMW M6 GT3 in the Pro-Am Cup, to be driven by Karim Ojeh, Julian Darras and Olivier Grotz.

As well as the 24-hour races, Schubert Motorsport and ROWE Racing will also complete an extensive race programme as customer racing teams in 2016. As it did last year, Schubert Motorsport will race in the ADAC GT Masters. The team's BMW M6 GT3 will be driven by BMW Motorsport Juniors Krohn and Louis Delétraz, who will be joined at selected events by experienced BMW works drivers.

ROWE Racing contests the entire season in the Blancpain GT Series with the BMW M6 GT3 and BMW works drivers Sims and Eng. The Blancpain GT Series consists of numerous sprint and endurance races, as well as the 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps.



SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS 24 HOURS.

2016 DATES.

5th July Official test day for the 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps

28th – 31st July 68th staging of the 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps

BMW added a new chapter to its success story at Spa-Francorchamps in 2015: 50 years after the first win at the 24-hour classic, Nick Catsburg, Lucas Luhr and Markus Palmtala of BMW Sports Trophy Team Marc VDS claimed the manufacturer's 22nd overall victory at this race. This success saw the BMW Z4 GT3 win one of the most prestigious endurance races in the world on its last major appearance. The cards have been reshuffled for 2016: the BMW M6 GT3 faces the challenge of "Eau Rouge" – the world-famous blind corner after the start/finish line – for the first time.

The 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps has a long and chequered history. The first endurance race at the 'Ardennes Rollercoaster' was held in 1924. The first 24-hour race of the new era took place in 1964. The following year, a BMW crossed the finish line as the winner for the first time. Pascal Ickx and Gérard Langlois triumphed in a BMW 1800. Since then, a further 21 BMW teams have joined the list of winners at this event, the character of which has changed constantly through the decades. Since 2011, the 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps has established a reputation as having the strongest field at



any endurance race solely for GT racing cars. The undulating, 7.004-kilometre track winds through the hilly Ardennes landscape and is regarded as one of the most demanding and

popular racetracks in the world. Between 1950 and 2015, the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps hosted 48 Formula One Grands Prix.





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BLANCPAIN GT SERIES.

The Blancpain GT Series enters its third season with one of the strongest fields in the world of GT racing. Major automobile manufacturers like BMW, Audi, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, Ferrari, Lamborghini, McLaren, Nissan, Jaguar, Bentley and Aston Martin go head to head at ten race events, held at some of the finest and most famous racetracks in Europe. The Blancpain Endurance Cup consists of five long-distance races – including the 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps. The Blancpain Sprint Cup sees the GT cars square up in 60-minute sprint races at five events. Both cups have their own individual standings, but the top goal for participants is to win the overall Blancpain GT Series, which requires them to enter both the Endurance and Sprint Cup.

ROWE Racing fields two BMW M6 GT3s, which will contest the entire season in the Blancpain GT Series. The two BMW works drivers Philipp Eng and Alexander Sims will share one car, while the other BMW M6 GT3 will be driven by Nick Catsburg and Stef Dusseldorp.

BLANCPAIN ENDURANCE CUP.

23th – 24th April	Monza (IT)
14th – 15th May	Silverstone (GB)
24th – 25th June	Paul Ricard (FR)
28th – 31st July	Spa-Francorchamps 24 Hours (BE)
17th – 18th September	Nürburgring (DE)

BLANCPAIN SPRINT CUP.

8th – 10th April	Misano (IT)
7th – 8th May	Brands Hatch (GB)
1st – 3rd July	Nürburgring (DE)
26th – 28th August	Budapest (HU)
1st – 2nd October	Barcelona (ES)



THE NEW TOP MODEL FOR GT RACING.

THE BMW M6 GT3.



The 2016 season sees BMW Motorsport embark on a new chapter of its success story in GT racing. The BMW M6 GT3 has replaced the BMW Z4 GT3, which had been in action since 2010, and will be run by many privateer teams within the BMW Sports Trophy in a host of championships around the world, as well as at iconic events like the 24-hour races at the Nürburgring and Spa-Francorchamps.

“With the BMW M6 GT3, our customers can look forward to thoroughbred racing technology,” said BMW Motorsport

Director Jens Marquardt. “I am confident that we will continue the successful racing tradition of BMW M and BMW Motorsport with the BMW M6 GT3 from 2016. The BMW M6 GT3 is BMW’s most economic GT racing car ever: with significantly lower running costs than its predecessor, the BMW Z4 GT3 – and all that while at the same time increasing performance. And let’s not forget the design: with its athletic lines, the BMW M6 GT3 is a real eye-catcher, which makes it very clear to everyone that BMW Motorsport is competing with a real racer in 2016.”

The production version of the BMW M6 Coupé provided BMW Motorsport with the perfect basis, on which to develop the GT racing car. The BMW M6 GT3 incorporated all the experience that BMW Motorsport had gained with the successful predecessors. As a result, the new GT racing cars feature numerous improvements, particularly when it comes to driveability and economy. They are powered by a 4.4-litre V8 engine with M TwinPower Turbo technology, which has been modified for its race outings. The power unit has dry sump lubrication and generates up to 585 hp – with the whole



car weighing less than 1,300 kilograms. The aerodynamic properties of the chassis have been optimised in the BMW wind tunnel.

The heart of the BMW M6 GT3, its engine, has been transferred from the production car with only minor modifications. Furthermore, the car sets new benchmarks when it comes to safety – with a completely re-designed front, a large distance to the safety cage, and the driver's seat oriented well towards the centre of the car. Further technical characteristics of the BMW M6 GT3 are the drive concept, six-speed sequential racing transmission, and high-performance motorsport electronics. The aerodynamic properties of the chassis have been optimised in the BMW wind tunnel.

Priority was given to ensuring maximum driver safety. To offer the drivers of the BMW M6 GT3 as much protection as possible against the effects of an accident, BMW Motorsport itself developed and produced the FIA-approved safety cell in accordance with the very latest safety standards. The engineers also placed great importance on efficiency and ease of maintenance, as well as reliability, which is particularly crucial at the 24-hour classics. The cars have completed more than 20,000 kilometres of testing. That includes performance tests and endurance runs. Furthermore, the cars were developed specifically with the performance window agreed by the FIA for 2016 in mind. As such, they will be significantly more competitive than the BMW Z4 GT3. The development process focused on handling, ergonomics and safety. In designing the interior, top priority was given to safety, ergonomics, ensuring controls are easily visible and accessible, and intuitive operation. The low position of the powertrain further lowers the centre



of gravity, thus improving performance. The transaxle gearbox ensures weight is distributed perfectly between the front and rear axles.

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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.

DIMENSIONS	
Length	4,944 mm
Width	2,046 mm
Wheelbase	2,901 mm
Weight	less than 1,300 kg (without driver)
ENGINE	
Model	Based on the S63 production engine and slightly modified for the specific requirements of motorsport; with M TwinPower turbo technology
Type	V8
Capacity	4,395 ccm
Output	Up to 585 hp (depending on classification)
Oil supply	Oil system, based on dry sump, specifically developed by BMW Motorsport
CHASSIS	
	Self-supporting steel chassis, welded safety cage in line with latest FIA standards, carbon-fibre crash structure at front, CFRP crash element at rear
DRIVER AIDS	
	Racing ABS, Racing traction control
SUSPENSION	
	Double wishbone axle at front and rear, Anti-roll bar on front and rear axle (adjustable from exterior), shock absorbers at front and rear (four-way adjustable)
TRANSMISSION	
	Low position powertrain, Transaxle gearbox, mechanical differential lock, sequential electronic transmission
TANK	
	FT3 safety tank, capacity: up to 125 litres (depending on regulations/BoP)
BRAKES	
	6-piston, fixed calliper at front, 4-piston, fixed calliper at rear
WHEELS/TYRES	
Wheels	FA / RA: 13 x 18 inch
Tyres	310/710 x 18 inch



ROWE RACING.

THE TEAM.

FACTS AND FIGURES.

Founded	2008
Team Principal	Hans-Peter Naundorf
Team Base	St. Ingbert (DE)
Class 24h Spa	Pro

Drivers for Spa-Francorchamps 24 Hours

Nick Catsburg
Stef Dusseldorp
Dirk Werner
Philipp Eng
Maxime Martin
Alexander Sims



The ROWE Racing team joins the BMW Motorsport family in 2016. “We are thrilled with the partnership with BMW,” said team principal Hans-Peter Naundorf. “The opportunity to take part in motorsport of the highest level with the new BMW M6 GT3 is both challenging and motivating. As a successful endurance team, we have once again set ourselves very ambitious goals, and go into the new season full of confidence.”

The BMW M6 GT3s are primarily in action in the Blancpain GT Series – both the Endurance Cup and the Sprint Cup – as well

as on the Nürburgring-Nordschleife. One highlight of the season have been the 24-hour classic in the “Green Hell”, where ROWE Racing competed with BMW works support and finished a strong fifth. The highlight of the customer racing season are the 24-hour race at the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps. An outing is also planned for the FIA GT World Cup at the iconic street circuit in Macau at the end of the year. ROWE Racing’s headquarters are in St. Ingbert, in the Saarland region of Germany. The team moved into its own 1,200 m² building next to the A6 motorway in spring 2011. In the same year, the team raced under the name ROWE Racing for the

first time in the VLN Endurance Championship and at the Nürburgring 24 Hours. Since then, it has gone on to claim nine race wins and 18 podium finishes. In 2015, ROWE Racing also took its place on the starting grid in the Blancpain Endurance Series and ADAC GT Masters for the first time.

BMW Motorsport is providing ROWE Racing with some of the best BMW works drivers for its outings. Philipp Eng, Maxime Martin, Alexander Sims and Dirk Werner will be in action in Spa-Francorchamps. Sims and Eng will also contest the entire season in the Blancpain GT Series for ROWE Racing.



ROWE RACING.

THE DRIVERS FOR THE SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS 24 HOURS.

PHILIPP ENG.

 **Date of birth:** 28th February 1990
Place of birth: Salzburg (AT)

Philipp Eng returns to the BMW family after almost ten years in 2016. Eng raced in Formula BMW in 2006 and 2007, and finished third in Formula BMW Germany in 2007. He then went on to win the Formula BMW World Final in Valencia, the prize for which was a test drive in a Formula One car with the BMW Sauber F1 Team. After a number of years in single-seater racing, Eng switched to GT racing cars in 2011. From 2012 on he raced in the Porsche Carrera Cup Germany, in which he won the title in 2014 and 2015. In 2015 he also added the title in the Porsche Mobil 1 Supercup. He is now making his debut in the BMW M6 GT3 with ROWE Racing – both at the 24-hour classics and as a regular driver in the Blancpain GT Series.

MAXIME MARTIN.

 **Date of birth:** 20th March 1986
Place of birth: Uccle (BE)

It was through the BMW Sports Trophy that he made it into the BMW works driver squad, and Martin has since established himself as a permanent fixture in BMW Motorsport's squad of DTM drivers. With two victories to his name, he has shown that he can compete with the best in the BMW M4 DTM. The same obviously goes without saying for GT cars, like the BMW M6 GT3. In 2013, Martin contested the entire season in the American Le Mans Series with the BMW Z4 GTE, and caught the eye with a spectacular fightback to finish runner-up at the Nürburgring 24 Hours. He has also enjoyed success in the Blancpain Endurance Series. Martin finished runner-up on the Nordschleife again in 2015. In contrast, luck was not on his side in the Ardennes. After Martin's BMW Z4 GT3 had held an impressive lead, engine damage shattered any hopes of winning. He is now hoping to settle the score at this year's classic.

ALEXANDER SIMS.

 **Date of birth:** 15th March 1988
Place of birth: London (GB)

Alexander Sims goes into the GT season in his third year in a row as a BMW works driver. This time he will contest the entire season in the Blancpain GT Series alongside Philipp Eng for ROWE Racing, as well as starting at the 24-hour classics. He made his first appearances in single-seater racing in 2006, gaining experience in Formula BMW. Since then his career path has seen him rise through the ranks in various single-seater series. At the same time, Sims also began competing in endurance races in 2012. He competed in the European Le Mans Series in an LMP2 prototype. 2014 was the first year Sims took part in the Nürburgring 24 Hours for BMW Motorsport. He also competed for Team Ecurie Ecosse in the Blancpain Endurance Series and the British GT Championship. Sims and his team-mates produced a spectacular fightback at the 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps in 2015, when he came through from 20th to seventh overall to present the Ecurie Ecosse team with third place in the fiercely-competitive Pro-Am class.

ROWE RACING.

THE DRIVERS FOR THE SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS 24 HOURS.

NICK CATSBURG.

 **Date of birth:** 15th February 1988
Place of birth: Amersfoort (NL)

Dutchman Nick Catsburg claimed his first major endurance success last year with victory at the 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps in the BMW Z4 GT3. He also raced in the FIA World Touring Car Championship, the Pirelli World Challenge and the Blancpain Sprint Series. Since 2011 he has started in BMW racing cars in a variety of international racing series and 24-hour races. In 2013, together with Marc VDS Racing, he took the team title in the Blancpain Endurance Series. He has already tasted success on the Nordschleife at the Nürburgring and celebrated race victories in the VLN Endurance Championship in 2013 and 2014.

STEF DUSSELDORP.

 **Date of birth:** 27th September 1989
Place of birth: Winterswijk (NL)

Stef Dusseldorp is the newcomer at BMW Motorsport – but he is definitely not lacking experience. Having started his career on the karting circuit, the talented youngster soon switched to single-seater racing and contested two successful years in Formula Renault. From 2009, Dusseldorp drove in the Formula 3 Cup, in which he claimed numerous podiums and finished second and fourth overall. In 2011, the Dutchman switched to GT racing and the FIA GT1 World Championship, in which he finished runner-up the following year. Dusseldorp has been racing in the Blancpain GT Series since 2014 and joined ROWE Racing in 2015. He has already gained valuable endurance experience, including at the 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps.

DIRK WERNER.

 **Date of birth:** 25th May 1981
Place of birth: Hanover (DE)

After his successes in European endurance races as well as in North America, which were rewarded with a BMW works driver contract in 2010, the family man was part of BMW's return to the DTM in 2012. With BMW Team Schnitzer he won the title in the team standings in the very first season. He returned to endurance racing in 2014 and, in the BMW Z4 GT3, competed in the Nürburgring 24 Hours and 24 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps, among other races. On the circuit in the Ardennes, he led the race until shortly before the end, and finished in second place. In 2015 he won three races for BMW Team RLL in the United SportsCar Championship alongside Bill Auberlen, and finished runner-up in the Driver Championship.



BMW TEAM ITALIA.

THE TEAM.

The BMW Team Italia is the team belonging to team principal Roberto Ravaglia, who won countless races and titles as a driver for BMW. His team is a long-term and proven partner of BMW and will compete in the Pro-Am Cup. Whether in the World Touring Car Championship or in GT racing, the Italian

team and BMW have enjoyed great success together for years. In 2013, ROAL Motorsport was so successful in the WTCC, Blancpain Endurance Series and Italian GT Championship that the team won the inaugural Team competition in the BMW Sports Trophy. 2014 was another special year for ROAL

FACTS AND FIGURES.

Founded	2001
Team Principal	Roberto Ravaglia
Team Base	Legnaro (IT)
Class 24h Spa	Pro-Am Cup
Drivers for Spa-Francorchamps 24 Hours	Martin Tomczyk Stefano Colombo Giorgio Roda Max Koebolt

Motorsport. An old friend did return to the fold: Alessandro Zanardi. Following his serious crash in the 2001 ChampCar series, as a result of which he lost both his legs, Zanardi returned to the racetrack with ROAL and BMW Motorsport in 2003. He raced in the European and World Touring Car Championships from 2005 until 2009, winning four races during that time. Zanardi then took a break from motor racing, instead turning his hand to paracycling – a discipline in which he won two gold medals at the 2012 Paralympics in London. In 2014, he made his latest return to motorsport as a BMW works driver, racing for ROAL Motorsport in the Blancpain Sprint Series at the wheel of a modified BMW Z4 GT3. ROAL Motorsport also competed with a BMW Z4 GT3 in the 2014 Blancpain Endurance Series. Last year ROAL Motorsport sent the BMW Z4 GT3 built and modified by BMW Motorsport into action; this was the car with which Zanardi, Timo Glock and Bruno Spengler contested the 24 Hours of Spa.



BMW TEAM ITALIA.

THE DRIVERS FOR THE SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS 24 HOURS.

MARTIN TOMCZYK.



Date of birth: 7th December 1981

Place of birth: Rosenheim (DE)

Martin Tomczyk is one of the most experienced drivers in the DTM field. Only two of the current crop of DTM drivers have contested more races than the man from Rosenheim, Germany. In 2011, he achieved his greatest goal at the 11th attempt: the drivers' title in the DTM. Tomczyk picked up three wins and eight podium finishes over the course of the season. In 2012 he arrived at BMW with the number 1 on his car. The Nordschleife isn't unknown territory for Tomczyk as he finished sixth with BMW Team Schubert in 2013 and 2014.

STEFANO COLOMBO.



Date of birth: 24th November 1990

Place of birth: Borgomanero (IT)

CAREER.

2014 2nd place Silver Cup
Blancpain Sprint Series

2013 2nd place Italian GT Championship

2012 1st place Italian GT Championship

GIORGIO RODA.



Date of birth: 18th March 1994

Place of birth: Como (IT)

CAREER.

2015 5th place GTC class
European Le Mans Series

2014 1st place GTS class
International GT Open

2010 Italian Kart Champion KF2 class

MAX KOEBOLT.



Date of birth: 8th October 1997

Place of birth: Heemskerk (NL)

CAREER.

2015 Blancpain Endurance Series

2014 1st place GTB class
Dutch Supercar Challenge

2007-2011 Kart racing



SIDE BY SIDE.

OFFICIAL PARTNER.



Akrapovič is the leading manufacturer of premium exhaust systems for motorcycles and performance cars. It is also a leader in carbon components and the innovative use of superalloys. Akrapovič exhaust systems are renowned for their design, lightweight construction and durability, as well as their impact on performance and sound.

Available for a range of BMW models as aftermarket products, Akrapovič exhausts enhance performance, torque and sound. The systems are available in titanium or stainless steel, with exquisite carbon fibre or titanium tailpipes and on many models, drivers can add a Wireless Kit for adjustable sound.

Founded in Slovenia 25 years ago by former motorcycle racer Igor Akrapovič the brand has grown to international prominence through the successful support of leading racing teams.



CATL is one of the world's leading manufacturers of energy storage systems. The Chinese company was founded in 2011 in Ningde. For its worldwide customers CATL develops and distributes high-power lithium ion batteries for electric vehicles and electric buses, as well as complete solutions for energy storage systems. Based on the very latest materials, the batteries and systems guarantee maximum safety, reliability, quality and charging efficiency. CATL's goal is to develop advanced concepts and technologies, with which it is possible to advance the green energy revolution.

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