



Media Information  
BMW M Motorsport  
13th November 2021

### **LMDh and IMSA GTD Pro: BMW Team RLL will continue to race for BMW M Motorsport in North America.**

- **As of the 2023 IMSA season, BMW Team RLL will race in the two LMDh prototypes currently being developed by BMW M Motorsport.**
- **Initial sketches, being presented in the run-up to MOTUL Petit Le Mans, give a foretaste of the BMW M LMDh.**
- **BMW Team RLL will contest the new GTD Pro category with two BMW M4 GT3s at the start of the 2022 IMSA season.**

**Road Atlanta. In the run-up to MOTUL Petit Le Mans, the season finale of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship at Road Atlanta (USA), BMW M Motorsport is providing updates on the LMDh project for the 2023 season and its plans for the coming year. BMW Team RLL, who have been celebrating successes with BMW M Motorsport since 2009, will compete in the two LMDh prototypes as of 2023. Initial sketches give a foretaste of the car, which will be called BMW M LMDh. Alongside the LMDh test programme, BMW Team RLL will field two BMW M4 GT3s in the new GTD Pro category in the 2022 IMSA season.**

"I'm delighted that our LMDh project has reached its next milestone with the announcement of BMW Team RLL as the team to race in the two prototypes," said Franciscus van Meel, CEO of BMW M GmbH. "As with chassis partner Dallara, in team principal Bobby Rahal and his crew we have outstanding expertise and decades of experience at the highest level on our side. The LMDh project continues to gain momentum and I am confident that next year we will once again take all necessary steps as planned to be as well prepared as possible for entering our first IMSA season with the LMDh prototypes in 2023. We are taking on this new challenge together at full speed."

Mike Krack, Head of BMW M Motorsport, added: "BMW Team RLL is the ideal partner for our LMDh project. BMW M Motorsport has been working very successfully with Bobby Rahal and his crew since 2009. During this time, we



have all come to know the IMSA series very well and have celebrated major success together. From our perspective, racing in the top class and challenging for overall victories from 2023 is the logical next step. When you compete with a new race car, it is a great advantage to already know what awaits you in the race series, at the circuits, and in terms of organisation. This is 100 percent the case in the constellation we have opted for. That also goes for BMW of North America. Thank you very much for your fantastic support. Plus, BMW Team RLL is not only one of the best teams in North America on the GT scene, but also in Formula racing so we have all the right ingredients for success.”

BMW Team RLL has been contesting the GT category of the IMSA and its predecessor series in BMW racing cars since 2009. This partnership's biggest successes have been the GTLM wins with the BMW M8 GTE at the 24 Hours of Daytona in 2019 and 2020, the GTLM title wins in the driver, team and manufacturer standings of the 2020 Michelin Endurance Cup, and a total of five GT titles with the BMW M3 GT in the 2010 and 2011 seasons of the American Le Mans Series. Bobby Rahal's team also enjoys success in the North American IndyCar Series. The team has won the legendary Indy 500 twice – most recently in 2020. Alongside the intensive testing with the BMW M LMDh, BMW Team RLL will contest the 2022 IMSA season starting with two BMW M4 GT3s in the newly established GTD Pro category in the first races.

“For me personally and professionally this is a dream come true”, said Rahal. “Now to first run a brand-new car like the BMW M4 GT3 and after that make the next step with BMW Team RLL to race for overall wins in the LMDh class is a direction we definitely wanted to go. I'm so pleased, so proud, so thankful that we'll be able to do it together with BMW M Motorsport.”

The design sketches of the BMW M LMDh were produced in close collaboration between BMW M Motorsport and BMW Group Designworks. Michael Scully, BMW Group Designworks Global Automotive Director, said: “Uniting the iconic elements of BMW M Motorsport design DNA with the performant architecture of an ultra-modern prototype is what this project is all about. The shape of the BMW M LMDh exemplifies the visceral efficiency which is so synonymous with BMW M Motorsport, yet the design process has been highly collaborative between BMW M Motorsport, Dallara, and BMW Group Designworks. Iterating the exterior surfaces with this team is particularly rewarding because each



project partner has distinguished expertise in their discipline, yet there's a mutual respect and drive to find a transcendent, cohesive result together. I'm confident this car will be something we can all be proud of, and that the on-track results will reflect the development team's great dynamic. For me personally this project represents the synthesis of my professional design experience and a life-long immersion in prototype racing at lower echelons as a driver. It's indeed a dream realized."

### **Note to editors:**

A new episode of the video series "MBEDDED" will be released on the BMW Motorsport YouTube channel, which will be all about the renewal of the partnership with BMW Team RLL in the context of MOTUL Petit Le Mans. In the episode, BMW M Motorsport gives exclusive insights behind the scenes of the LMDh project. See here for a teaser of the third episode:

[https://b.mw/MBEDDED\\_Ep3\\_Teaser](https://b.mw/MBEDDED_Ep3_Teaser).

### **Media Contact.**

#### **Andrea Schwab**

Spokesperson BMW M

Phone: +49 (0) 151 601 60988

Email: [Andrea.Schwab@bmw.de](mailto:Andrea.Schwab@bmw.de)

#### **Martin Schleypen**

Spokesperson BMW M

Phone: +49 (0) 151 601 37889

Email: [Martin.Schleypen@bmwgroup.com](mailto:Martin.Schleypen@bmwgroup.com)

### **Media Website.**

[www.press.bmwgroup.com/global](http://www.press.bmwgroup.com/global)

### **BMW Motorsport on the Web.**

Website: [www.bmw-motorsport.com](http://www.bmw-motorsport.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bmwmotorsport](https://www.facebook.com/bmwmotorsport)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/bmwmotorsport](https://www.instagram.com/bmwmotorsport)

# BMW

## Corporate Communications



YouTube: [www.youtube.com/bmwmotorsport](http://www.youtube.com/bmwmotorsport)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/bmwmotorsport](http://www.twitter.com/bmwmotorsport)

Twitch: [www.twitch.tv/bmwmotorsport](http://www.twitch.tv/bmwmotorsport)

