



DTM

Interview with Jens Marquardt: “We are offering an insight into the status of our development work”.

Munich, 15th July 2011. Since 1st July 2011, Jens Marquardt has been responsible for all the company's racing projects as BMW Motorsport Director. In this interview, the 44-year-old reports on the status of preparations for the return to the DTM, the background to the choice of drivers, and the rest of this year's BMW Motorsport racing programme.

Mr. Marquardt, the BMW M3 DTM Concept Car is celebrating its debut in Munich. Is this a special moment for you?

Jens Marquardt: “Yes, of course. Everyone in the team has been utterly devoted to the intensive development of the BMW M3 DTM for months. It is a special moment when you unveil the car to the public for the first time. How will people react? Do the BMW fans like the new car? Obviously the visual appearance of the car will change considerably before the first race in 2012. The BMW M3 DTM Concept Car allows us to give an insight into the status of our development work. The fact that we are able to do this at the DTM event in Munich – the home of BMW – makes it doubly interesting.”

The car completed its roll-out and the first tests. Were the results satisfactory?

Marquardt: “Yes, we are very happy. However, it is still too early to draw conclusions regarding the subsequent performance of the car in race conditions. It was important for us to get the first prototype of the BMW M3 DTM out onto the track so we could start our testing programme. That worked very well. Over the next few weeks we will build more cars, so that each of our three teams can start working on the car.”

Andy Priaulx and Augusto Farfus have been confirmed as drivers. Is this a logical choice?

Marquardt: “To a certain degree, yes. Andy and Augusto have proven on more than one occasion in the past that they are among the very best when it comes to production car racing. We know the DTM places very unique demands on the drivers. However, Andy and Augusto have all the attributes needed to find their feet quickly in this series. They are permanent fixtures in our team and have known the engineers for years. That will make the test work easier.”



Who will drive the other BMW M3 DTM cars in 2012?

Marquardt: "We will be working on completing the driving line-up for the DTM comeback over the coming weeks and months. At the moment it is impossible to say when all the drives will be confirmed. At first we will obviously look to the drivers in our own ranks, but we will also be watching some possible candidates who do not currently drive for BMW. Whatever happens, we will line up with strong drivers in 2012."

Outside of the DTM, what is next for BMW Motorsport this year?

Marquardt: "The DTM preparation obviously takes up a lot of time. Despite this, we are going all out to ensure that this year's GT programme remains successful. BMW Team RLL is in a good position in the fight for the GT title in the American Le Mans Series. In the Intercontinental Le Mans Cup, BMW Motorsport is also well placed to challenge for the team and manufacturers' titles. As you can see, although the 24-hour races in Le Mans and at the Nürburgring, both of which we finished on the podium, are over, there is no chance of us getting bored."

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