A subsidiary of BMW AG

# BMW

**U.S. Press Information** 



### For Release: IMMEDIATE

#### Contact: Thomas Plucinsky BMW of North America Motorsport Communications 201-406-4801 (cell) / thomas.plucinsky@bmwna.com

#### Matt Russell

BMW of North America Motorsport Communications 201-248-0169 (cell) / Matthew.Russell@bmwna.com

#### **Bill Cobb**

BMW of North America Motorsport Press Officer 215-431-7223 (cell) / <u>billcobbcommunications@yahoo.com</u>

#### Kathi Lauterbach

Rahal Letterman Lanigan, VP of Communications 317-297-8064 (office) / 317-447-4337 (cell) klauterbach@rahal.com

# BMW Team RLL Qualifies 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> for 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Petit Le Mans

**Woodcliff Lake, N.J. – Oct. 18, 2013...** Dirk Müller qualified the No. 56 BMW Team RLL Z4 GTE fifth for tomorrow's 1000-mile Petit Le Mans, the final race of the season and the American Le Mans Series. His quick lap, 1:19.23 minutes, around the 2.54-mile Road Atlanta track came on his fifth circuit of the 15-minute qualifying session. Müller, who will be racing for the GT driver's title this weekend, will share the No. 56 machine with Bill Auberlen and John Edwards.

The No. 55 Z4 GTE was qualified ninth by Jörg Müller with a 1:19.95 minute lap. He will share the car with Maxime Martin and Uwe Alzen.

Tomorrow's Petit Le Mans marks the final race of the successful debut season for the BMW Z4 GTE. Both cars reached the top of the podium, the No. 55 machine winning at Long Beach and the No. 56 car at Lime Rock Park. The team has also scored four additional podiums, four pole positions, and eight top-5 finishes.







**Dirk Müller, driver No. 56 Z4 GTE**  $-(5^{th})$  - "It was a solid effort. I'm feeling extremely comfortable in the car. I had three good laps, all 100% with no mistakes. Our focus is the race and I know we are ready."

-2-

**Jörg Müller, driver No. 55 Z4 GTE** – (9<sup>th</sup>) – "I'm very disappointed with my qualifying. I had a very comfortable gap, but when I caught up to one competitor he blocked me and I lost time. The same thing happened a second time and I was no longer in the sweet spot of the Michelins. The lap time shown on the scoring sheet is definitely less than the car is capable of."

Follow BMW Team RLL on Twitter at @BMWUSARacing for "from-the-pit-box" updates all weekend. Live streaming of the race can be found on ESPN3.com at 11:30 a.m. ET Saturday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>. The race is scheduled to be broadcast on Fox Sports 1 and 2 television per the following schedule; 11:00am - 12pm EDT on FOX Sports 2, 2:30pm - 6:30pm EDT on FOX Sports 2, 6:30pm - 8pm EDT on FOX Sports 1, and 8pm - 9:00pm EDT FOX Sports 2. ALMS.com will stream in-car footage throughout the race and the full live feed for international views. More information on the program can be found at www.bmwusa.com and www.alms.com.

#### **BMW Group In America**

BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars NA, LLC began distributing vehicles in 2003. The BMW Group in the United States has grown to include marketing, sales, and financial service organizations for the BMW brand of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, the MINI brand, and the Rolls-Royce brand of Motor Cars; DesignworksUSA, a strategic design consultancy in California; a technology office in Silicon Valley and various other operations throughout the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is part of BMW Group's global manufacturing network and is the exclusive manufacturing plant for all X5 and X3 Sports Activity Vehicles and X6 Sports Activity Coupes. The BMW Group sales organization is represented in the U.S. through networks of 338 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 139 BMW motorcycle retailers, 119 MINI passenger car dealers, and 34 Rolls-Royce Motor Car dealers. BMW (US) Holding Corp., the BMW Group's sales headquarters for North America, is located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.







CE BMW Performan

Information about BMW Group products is available to consumers via the Internet at: <a href="http://www.bmwgroupna.com">www.bmwgroupna.com</a>

- 3 -

## **Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing**

BMW's partner, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, based in Hilliard, Ohio and co-owned by three-time IndyCar Champion and 1986 Indianapolis 500 winner Bobby Rahal, Mi-Jack co-owner Mike Lanigan and CBS LATE SHOW host David Letterman, has been competing for over two decades, compiling 28 victories, 42 poles and three series championships (1992, 2010, 2011) as well as claiming an Indianapolis 500 victory (Buddy Rice in 2004). In 2009 the team joined BMW of North America to campaign the new BMW M3 in the American Le Mans Series. In 2010 the team won both the Manufacturer and Team Championships in the GT category. In 2011 the team swept all three GT titles - Manufacturer, Team and Driver.

# # #

**Journalist note:** Information about BMW Group and its products in the USA is available to journalists on-line at <u>www.bmwgroupusanews.com</u> and <u>www.press.bmwna.com</u>.

# # #





