

BMW Yachtsport

Press Information

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BMW technology transfer a successful model in numerous sporting disciplines.

Whether on the racetrack, in the ice channel, or on water: BMW engineers help in the hunt for crucial seconds.

Munich/New York. The BMW Group is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Since the company was founded, innovation and a pioneering approach have been among BMW's success factors. This pioneering spirit and the desire to move the boundaries of what is technically feasible is also the key to success in numerous racing disciplines – and the reason why the development of innovative technologies for sporting competitions and chasing records has always been a matter of course for BMW. And BMW does not only take on challenges at the highest level in motorsport, but also in bobsleigh and luge, as well as the America's Cup.

BMW in motorsport.

Since the company was founded in 1916, BMW has celebrated racing success around the world. On motorcycles, in touring cars and sports cars, at rallies, in Formula 2 and Formula 1. The outstanding achievements and successes include:

- 1924: First BMW racing success with the BMW R32 motorcycle.
- 1929-1937: Ernst Jakob Henne sets numerous speed records on BMW motorcycles.
- 1940: Fritz Huschke von Hanstein and Walter Bäumer win the legendary Mille Miglia endurance race.
- 1954-1974: 20 constructors' titles and 19 riders' titles in the Sidecar World Championship.
- 1970s: BMW wins three European touring car championships with the BMW 3.0 CSL.
- 1975: BMW of North America is founded and wins the 12 Hours of Sebring at the first attempt with the BMW 3.0 CSL.
- 1983: BMW wins the Formula 1 World Championship as engine supplier.
- 1987: The BMW M3 wins the World and European Touring Car Championships and the DTM in the same season.



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- 1999: First win at the 24 Hours of Le Mans (BMW V12 LMR).
- 2002-2009: BMW claims 17 podium positions in Formula 1.
- 2005-2009: The BMW works driver with a double leg amputation, Alessandro Zanardi, wins four races of the World Touring Car Championship in a BMW 320i adapted to suit his specific requirements.
- 2000s: BMW celebrates numerous titles in touring car and GT racing.
- 2012-2015: BMW returns to the DTM and picks up seven of 12 titles up for grabs in four years.
- 2015: At the 24-hour race in Spa-Francorchamps, BMW Brand Ambassador Alessandro Zanardi shares the cockpit of a BMW Z4 GT3 with other drivers without physical limitations for the first time.

BMW in bobsleigh and luge.

- Since the 1980s, BMW has supported the Bob-und Schlittenverband für Deutschland (German Bobsleigh, Luge, and Skeleton Federation) (BSD), which guarantees medals in bobsleigh and luge in the World Cup, World Championships and Olympic Games.
- Since 2010, BMW is the Premium Partner and Technology Partner of the BSD, whose bobs and sleds are optimised in terms of aerodynamics in the wind tunnel at the BMW Group research and innovation centre (FIZ).
- During this partnership, there have been numerous international successes, including all four luge gold medals at the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi (Felix Loch - single-seater men, Natalie Geisenberger - single-seater women, Tobias Wendl/Tobias Arlt - two-seater, Loch/Geisenberger/Wendl/Arlt - team relay).
- The USA Bobsled & Skeleton Federation also relies on BMW's technological competence. BMW developed a new two-man bob for the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi – with success: Steven Holcomb and Steven Langton won the first Olympic medal for the USA in this discipline in 62 years.



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BMW in the America's Cup.

31st America's Cup (2002/03).

- BMW is the partner of Challenger Oracle BMW Racing.
- BMW developed the head-up display, which projects important data into the sunglasses of the sailors in real time.

32nd America's Cup (2007).

- BMW is the Technology Partner of "Challengers of Record" BMW ORACLE Racing.
- BMW experts in structural analysis and lightweight construction are assigned to the design team that made the hulls of the BMW ORACLE Racing yachts the lightest among the participants.
- BMW engineers optimise the entire structure of the yacht using finite element analysis in computer simulations.
- The keel fin is manufactured in the BMW plant in Eisenach.
- With innovative ball bearings made of ceramic, a material with which BMW has a lot of experience from Formula 1, the grinders and winches become smoother, more robust, less maintenance-intensive and weigh less.

33rd America's Cup (2010).

- BMW ORACLE Racing wins the America's Cup with Technology Partner BMW.
- The victorious yacht is a revolutionary 90-foot trimaran with a wing sail. BMW experts in lightweight construction and structural analysis work on the innovative rigging.
- Crucial to the victory in the area of light wind off the coast of Valencia is the capability to lift the windward float out of the water as fast as possible. BMW EfficientDynamics technology makes it possible to construct the trimaran so it is extremely light, despite its size, yet solid enough that it does not break despite the enormous pressure from the wing rig.



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35th America's Cup (2017).

- BMW has been the Official Technology Partner of Defender ORACLE TEAM USA since 2015.
- In the search for aerodynamic performance advantages of the “flying” catamarans, BMW brings valuable expertise, extensive experience and cutting-edge infrastructure from automobile manufacturing.
- Testing takes place in the BMW Group's research and innovation centre (FIZ), which has one of the largest and most advanced wind tunnels in the world.
- As in the 32nd and 33rd America's Cup, BMW lightweight construction expertise helps the designing and building the yachts.
- BMW Motorsport engineers develop an intuitive cockpit design, which makes it easier for Skipper Jimmy Spithill to control the various components (including rudder and foils).

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Press contact:

BMW Sport Communications

Nicole Stempinsky

Tel.: +49 (0)89 – 382 51 58 4

E-mail: Nicole.Stempinsky@bmw.de

Internet: www.bmw-yachtsport.com

