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**BMW Team RLL Carries Momentum of Double-Podium Finish at COTA to Watkins Glen and CTMP; BMW Brings Fireworks to Begin Second Half of 2017 IMSA Season.**

**Woodcliff Lake, N.J. – June 27, 2017...** Two of North America's most challenging race tracks will face BMW Team RLL on back-to-back weekends as the second half of the 2017 IMSA WeatherTech Championship begins. With both events providing bookends to the July 4th holiday - the Sahlen's Six Hours of the Glen, on July 2nd, at Watkins Glen International and the Mobil 1 SportsCar Grand Prix, on July 9th, at Canadian Tire Motorsport Park - BMW Team RLL has liveried both BMW M6 GTLM racing cars in a special holiday fireworks theme.

BMW Team RLL has used the traditional Le Mans break in the schedule to continue testing and continue the improvement the team has made with the M6 GTLM. A pole



and a double podium finish in the last round at the Circuit of the Americas was a season's-best result.

Last season, BMW Team RLL scored a third place finish at Watkins Glen with the No. 26 M6 driven by Bill Auberlen and Dirk Werner. The duo followed that result with a team-best fourth place finish at CTMP. With four races completed in the 2017 IMSA season, Auberlen and Alexander Sims stand fourth in GTLM driver points. Teammates John Edwards and Martin Tomczyk are ninth. BMW stands fourth in GTLM Manufacturer points, only 4 points from third.

"As we saw at COTA, this car seems to like long, fast circuits with fast corners and certainly Watkins Glen is all that", said **Bobby Rahal, Team Principal**. "I'm optimistic about our pace and not just in qualifying, also the race. I like six hour races. I think all of the races should be six hours at least. I think that is a great distance. Depending on the track, that's around 600 miles, maybe a little bit more. And particularly Watkins Glen is historic for six hour races so I'm excited about going there. After Austin we have to feel optimistic about where we are, performance wise. It's just a matter of not making mistakes. I think we can be right in the thick of it.

He continued with a comment on the next race at CTMP, "We have always had reasonably good results in qualifying but in the races have somewhat fallen off a bit but I don't think that is going to be as much of an issue this year given our performance. Like at COTA and Watkins Glen, the car likes fast corners and I think there are only two -- at most -- slow corners on the whole track. I think the nature of the track is in our wheel house and assuming things remain the same we should be competitive. Elkhart Lake is coming up too and these are tracks that probably now fit the BMW M6 very well so we are optimistic."

**Bill Auberlen, driver No. 25 BMW M6 GTLM:** "We did a fair amount of testing before COTA and had a positive BoP change. When the green flag dropped we were looking much better. We finished P2 and I'm hoping we are starting our roll for the bid to win the championship. Heading to Watkins Glen, Mosport (CTMP), and Road America hopefully benefit the BMW M6 GTLM. We are very close in the championship points so all we need to do now is stand on the podium consistently."



**Alexander Sims, driver No. 25 BMW M6 GTLM:** “This year is getting better and better for us in the 25 car so I am really looking forward to going to a Watkins Glen and then Mosport. Watkins Glen should suit the BMW and the test we did a month or so ago went well, what a place it is to drive! Mosport will be new for me so I will just keep an open view and see how the weekend goes to do the very best job I can.”

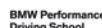
**John Edwards, driver No. 24 BMW M6 GTLM:** “It’s been a long break from racing in GTLM so we are all eager to get back to business! Last year we had good speed at Watkins Glen and Mosport as these high speed tracks really focus on the strong points of our M6. This year, we’ve been far more competitive at tracks where we had struggled with the car last year, including a double podium at our last race at COTA. I am confident we can carry that momentum into the back-to-back weekends at two of the fastest tracks we race.”

**Martin Tomczyk, driver No. 24 BMW M6 GTLM:** “So far Watkins Glen is one of my favorite race tracks in the States. We went testing and it felt very promising for the upcoming race. The track layout fits our M6 nicely. You never know what will happen in the race, but we should be competitive. I’ve never been to Mosport (CTMP) and I will have to adapt quickly. With just one week in between the races it will be tough for the team and drivers.”

The Sahlen’s Six Hours of The Glen takes the green flag at 10:10 a.m. ET Sunday, July 2. FOX Sports 1 will broadcast the race live beginning at 10:00 a.m. ET. The Mobil 1 SportsCar Grand Prix starts at 12:10 p.m. ET Sunday, July 9 with live coverage on FOX Sports 1 beginning at 12:00 p.m. ET. Follow BMW Team RLL on Twitter at [@BMWUSARacing](https://twitter.com/BMWUSARacing) for “from-the-pit-box” updates all weekend.

### **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 and X4 Sports Activity Coupes. The BMW Group sales organization is represented in the U.S. through networks of 342 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 152 BMW motorcycle retailers, 127 MINI passenger car dealers, and 36 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.

## **The BMW Group**

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. As a global company, the BMW Group operates 31 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries and has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2016, the BMW Group sold approximately 2.367 million cars and 145,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax was approximately € 9.67 billion on revenues amounting to € 94.16 billion. As of 31 December 2016, the BMW Group had a workforce of 124,729 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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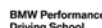
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## **Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing**

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, former CBS Late Show host David Letterman and Mi-Jack co-owner Mike Lanigan, has



been competing for over two decades. Prior to the start of their 26th season of competition in 2017, the team had compiled 38 victories, 51 poles, 151 podium finishes, three series championships (1992, 2010, 2011) and claimed 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. The following year the team won both the Manufacturer and Team Championships in the GT category and swept all three GT titles - Manufacturer, Team and Driver – in 2011. In 2012 the team finished second in the Team Championship and third in the Manufacturer Championship and in 2013, the team finished second in the Driver, Team and Manufacturer Championship. The 2014 season brought a new challenge with the creation of the IMSA United SportsCar Championship and the team finished on the podium six times including four second-place finishes. In 2015, the team earned three wins, two poles and a total of eight podium finishes to finish second in the Manufacturer, Team and Driver championships and added two poles and three podiums in 2016. Prior to the start of the 2017 season, BMW Team RLL had won 13 races, 22 poles and 60 podium finishes.

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