

2010-04-27 | 000-002-328 DE-EN

SCHAEFFLER AUTOMOTIVE AFTERMARKET GMBH & CO. OHG, LANGEN

FIA World Touring Car Championship: Schaeffler Automotive Aftermarket, Technical Partner of BMW Motorsport

With 22 exciting races in 11 countries on four continents, the 2010 World Touring Car Championship (WTCC) once again offers motorsport at its very best. And Schaeffler Automotive Aftermarket is onboard. After its debut as official sponsor of Team BMW in the 2004 European Touring Championship (ETCC) and several years as official partner of BMW in the FIA WTCC, the Aftermarket specialist is now technical partner for BMW Motorsport for the first time in this year's championship series. Schaeffler Automotive Aftermarket is prominently displayed with its company brands LuK and INA on the 280 PS BMW 320si WTCC, the overalls of its pilots and team clothing.

Last year's championship series achieved record popularity among motorsport fans with 75 television networks broadcasting to more than 430 million viewers in over 160 countries. This year's WTCC sponsorship gives Schaeffler Automotive Aftermarket an outstanding opportunity to further strengthen customer relations and industry contacts, while underscoring its commitment to the international motorsport scene – with its company brands LuK as clutch and transmission specialist; and INA as specialist for engine, transmission and chassis components, as well as for rolling bearings.

This season, Andy Priaulx and Augusto Farfus are competing for points and podium honours together for the first time as pilots for the BMW Team RBM. WTCC race events are held on a single weekend and consist of two racing sessions. The top eight finishers of the first session begin the second session of the weekend in reversed order. Points are awarded in a way analogous to Formula-1 (25, 18, 15, 12, 10, 8, 6, 4, 2, 1).

This year's BMW 320si WTCC model is the latest in a long line of highly successful 3-series racing models with decades of touring victories. Prior to this season, BMW has won a total of 24 European and seven world touring car championships. The BMW 320si WTCC was developed out of a special edition BMW 320si. Like the production model, the motorsport version is powered by a high-performance 2-litre inline four-cylinder engine.

After the season kicked-off in Curitiba, Brazil, the next WTCC races will be held on 2 May 2010 in Marrakech (Morocco). A complete racing schedule, results, team information as well as a comprehensive service area with picture gallery will be available at www.schaeffler-aftermarket.de/races beginning in May.

- Press picture "00016BDB.jpg"

Schaeffler Automotive Aftermarket, Technical Partner of BMW Motorsport, with pilots Andy Priaux (left) and Augusto Farfus (right).

- Press picture "00016BDC.jpg"

The BMW 320si WTCC front spoiler with partnership logos of the brands LuK and INA – Schaeffler Automotive Aftermarket, Technical Partner of BMW Motorsport.

Download:

http://www.luk-as.de//content.luk_as.de/en/press/press-releases/press-details.jsp?id=3382592

The Schaeffler Group with its product brands INA, LuK and FAG is a leading manufacturer of rolling bearings and linear products as well as a renowned supplier to the automotive industry of high-precision products and systems for engines, transmissions and chassis applications. The group of companies stands for exceptional customer focus, innovative ability and the highest possible level of quality. Sales of over € 9.5 billion were generated at over 180 locations in more than 50 countries in 2010. With around 70,000 employees worldwide, the Schaeffler Group is one of the largest German and European industrial companies in family ownership.

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