



## **Mazda and Saulnier Racing form Endurance partnership**

Saint-Germain-en-Laye, december, 20th 2008 - Following a strong 2008 season\*, Saulnier Racing will expand their LMP2 sportscar program in 2009. The French team, based in Nevers, will run two Pescarolo LMP2 prototypes powered by AER developed-Mazda MZR-R engines, the 4 cylinder 2.0 Turbo powerplant, which made its debut in the 2007 American Le Mans Series. Mazda Automobiles France partners with Saulnier Racing.

The Saulnier Racing/Mazda France team will run two LMP2 cars in the Le Mans Series in 2009 and will apply to the ACO for two entries in the same class at the Le Mans 24 Hours in June.

**Thierry Guillemot, President of Mazda Automobiles France:** *“We consider endurance racing to be a fantastic opportunity to develop the reputation of our marque and showcase the modernity of our range in a competitive sporting environment. We were attracted to Saulnier Racing by the passion which runs throughout the team as well as by their results in 2008 and by the enterprising spirit of Jacques Nicolet.”*

**Jacques Nicolet, President of Saulnier Racing:** *“Our alliance with Mazda is crucial for the development of our team in the LMP2 category. We are very proud to be working alongside the only Japanese constructor to have triumphed at the Le Mans 24 Hours and we are confident that this partnership will be very beneficial to the future of our team. We have already been won over by the determination of everyone at Mazda France, and their president Thierry Guillemot, to ensure everything is in place to make this new collaboration a huge success in 2009.”*

***PRESS RELEASE***  
*MAZDA AUTOMOBILES FRANCE SAS*



*\*3<sup>rd</sup> at the Le Mans 24 Hours, 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Nurburgring 1000kms, 4<sup>th</sup> in the Le Mans Series championship*

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