



## "Bringing together the very best in Endurance"

That is the objective of Jean-Claude Plassart, President of the Automobile Club de l'Ouest, on the eve of the Autosport 1000km of Silverstone, that has already made history before the race has even been run, not only as a last Le Mans Series race in 2010, but also the opening race of the Intercontinental Le Mans Cup.

### Jean-Claude Plassart:

"It is indeed a new chapter for endurance racing. Based on very best and strongest established traditional events in each of our series 'LE MANS' in the world (LMS in Europe, ALMS in North America and Asian LMS in Asia), manufacturers and their partners now need a playing field that spans the world, and the ILMC meets that objective. Large manufacturers can show their skills and teams who want to reach an international level can confront the worlds best in these major races. The ILMC is the thread that ties together these events, standing as the world series of Le Mans in three beautiful events this year and throughout the season from 2011. We want to bring what is best in the endurance racing to create major events outside of the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

### What marques are officially entered in ILMC?

In LM P1, Audi and Peugeot will compete for the title, with the presence of Aston Martin at Silverstone, then again in China. In GT2, Porsche, Ferrari, BMW, Jaguar will be attending in an official capacity. That's seven marques, whom we warmly thank for their confidence in plans and regulations of the ACO. For a series announced last December, that is not bad! We will also have prestigious competitors in prototypes through the involvement of teams running Lola, Aston Martin and Pescarolo. We have approaching fifty committed to the two flagship events of ILMC, Silverstone and Petit Le Mans, which is almost a record. The target has been reached regarding the number of entries and the quality and prestige of the grid.

### Can we expect new manufacturers in 2011?

We must first clarify that there are not many championships with so many different marques. We have the great traditional names of the automobile, but also the new. With the new regulation in 2011, we hope to reap what we have sown in recent years. Already Matech Ford have announced their arrival in GT2 and we receive many requests for information on the LM P2 "low cost" formula, for which several manufacturers like Norma, Lola and Oreca have already positioned themselves. Several engine manufacturers also offer engines from the series, like Ford Roush, HPD Honda, BMW, Nissan and GM...

### What will happen in the 2011 calendar?

For ILMC, the idea is to combine two European events (Spa and Silverstone) two U.S. trials (Sebring and Petit Le Mans) and two Asian races (Fuji and China) around the 24 Hours of Le Mans. Some dates are to be finalized since we want to optimize travel for teams.

### There is also talk of a Porsche 911 hybrid by the end of season ILMC...

The Porsche hybrid will run at Petit Le Mans and in Zhuhai, but without being classified. We thank the management of Porsche for choosing these two ILMC tests to trial the technology of the future. Manufacturers in GT2 are considering hybrid technology, but want to see this linked to existing cars on the market. It will therefore probably be in 2014. We want to reserve the prototype category (LM P1) as the 'laboratory' of technology to make the races as interesting as possible. That is the point of the 24 Hours of Le Mans and ILMC.

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