

## Raymond Narac and Patrick Pilet primed for Barcelona 1000kms



Team IMSA Performance Matmut won't have to wait much longer before getting back to business this season. Following the testing programme undertaken over the past few weeks, all the members of the Rouen-based team are heading to Barcelona to enjoy the irreplaceable thrill of competition.

At the dawn of a new season, which will include as many as 27 races, the team of Raymond Narac and Franck Rava start its 2009 campaign 1000kms south of its headquarters, at the Montmelo track in Catalunya, for the opening round of the Le Mans Series. The Spanish circuit will see Raymond Narac contest his first race with his new team mate, Patrick Pilet - from the Gers region of France, at the wheel of the latest version of the Porsche 997 GT3 RSR, sporting the colours of Matmut.

*"It will be a very important weekend for the entire team. Even though we were able to shake down the car and work on various issues during the various test days, nothing replaces racing to fine tune your equipment. Patrick is coming back after a year in the US with some different habits to what we're used to and for sure it will take some to accommodate," says Raymond Narac. "We will learn a lot during this race, about our level of performance as well as that of our competitors. The car has changed and so have the tyres and it will be important for everyone to establish the areas where we need to concentrate as soon as possible. More than ever the GT2 class is very competitive and we can't forget that we only have this race and Spa in one month's time to prepare for the Le Mans 24 Hours."*

Last year at the Catalunya circuit, the Porsche 997 RSR carrying the famous number 76 enjoyed a very successful first event of the year, finishing the race on the podium. The track, which is demanding on brakes and tyres, is located near Barcelona and will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year and is set to provide the team with its first real challenge, exactly what IMSA Performance Matmut loves!



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