

MEDIA INFO

1000km of Spa

Team ORECA-Matmut : Spa in preparation for Le Mans...

As the second round of the Intercontinental Le Mans Cup, the 1000km of Spa will be a dress rehearsal for the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

Alongside his teammates Loïc Duval and Olivier Panis, Nicolas Lapierre is looking for a good result in the Belgian Ardennes with the Peugeot 908 HDi FAP.



After a productive Test Day, the Team ORECA-Matmut will compete in its second race of the year: the 1000km of Spa-Francorchamps. As winners of the 12 Hours of Sebring with the Peugeot 908 HDi FAP, the team arrives in the Belgian Ardennes at the top of the Intercontinental Le Mans Cup championship standings. But the first objective will be to prepare well for the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

Racing against the new Audi R18s and alongside the official Peugeot 908s, the Team ORECA-Matmut is getting ready to race in its first European event of the season. It will be a particularly important weekend for drivers Nicolas Lapierre, Loïc Duval and Olivier Panis as the race is only a month before the twice around the clock classic in la Sarthe. *“We are going into Spa differently than we did Sebring – which was a goal in itself,”* admits David Flourey. *“On one hand, it’s a six hour race, in the European style: the sporting regulations are similar to those of Le Mans. On the other hand, the clear goal is to prepare for Le Mans and consequently to conserve the car and not put ourselves in the red.”*

Like the two major constructors, the 1000km of Spa will therefore be a dress rehearsal for June. The Technical Director explains the reasons. *“Firstly, it’s a perfect training session. It’s good for the team, notably during pit stops. It’s also good for the drivers, for example traffic management. In a general way, this will allow us to dial in the car as well as certain parameters like fuel consumption. We will also continue our tyre work. In terms of setup, we benefited from the Test Day and we hope to resume these tests at Spa.”*



Last *“interesting”* point according to David Flourey: the weather. *“The more the conditions will be changing, the more we will be ready for Le Mans. Due to Spa’s layout, it sometimes rains in one area, but not in another. We always learn a lot there. It can be a great ally...in order to get the best result with an excellent car, the Peugeot, and a trio of drivers that gel.”*

Practice starts Thursday, May 5, at 12:20 p.m. Follow the action on our social networks...



CONTACT

Anthony Megevand
 Groupe Oreca
 presse.communication@oreca.fr
 Tél. : + 33 (0)494 885 727
 Port. : + 33 (0)622 611 457

MEDIA INFO

Nicolas Lapierre : "It's up to us to make the case."

Nicolas, what are your thoughts going into the 1000km of Spa?

"We are arriving in Belgium at the top of the ILMC standings, so with a certain amount of calm. We know that Spa will likely be even more difficult than Sebring, with six factory prototypes that are more developed. We saw at the Test Day that the Audi R18 and Peugeot 908 have evolved quite a bit. On our side, we can count on a very good car, the Peugeot 908 HDi FAP, with reliability that has proven itself."



Is this "only" a preparation race?

"Not for the drivers at least! (laughs) We want a good result. The best way to prepare for Le Mans would be to win! We will be in the same position as Sebring and at Le Mans: stay quick to keep touch with the leaders and jump on any opportunities that present themselves."

Does last year's shortened race change your approach?

"No, not really. We didn't really do well at Spa in 2009 and 2010. That said, it wasn't really our doing. In contrast, Sebring brought a lot of confidence to the whole team. This puts us in a good position to take on this race. We know that we aren't the fastest, but we have things to prove. It's up to us to make the case."



Plus



CONTACT

Anthony Megevand
 Groupe Oreca
 presse.communication@oreca.fr
 Tél. : + 33 (0)494 885 727
 Port. : + 33 (0)622 611 457