



March 2009

Bruno Senna joins the Team ORECA-Matmut for Le Mans!

Bruno Senna – Stéphane Ortelli , Olivier Panis – Nicolas Lapierre make up the driver pairings that will defend the Team ORECA-Matmut's colours starting with the Barcelona 1000kms up to and including Le Mans!



In parallel to the launch of the new prototype designed in-house by the Team ORECA-Matmut's design office, the Var-based squad has put together a particularly talented driver line-up for the second year of its Le Mans Challenge. In 2009, it can count on very quick driver pairings combining youth, experience and dauntless "fighting spirit!" Bruno Senna will team up with Stéphane Ortelli in no.10 and Olivier Panis and Nicolas Lapierre will share no.11.

Senna will make his Le Mans debut at the age of twenty-five with the Team ORECA-Matmut. The Brazilian from Sao Paulo, who filled the runner-up spot in the 2008 GP2 Series and who is on the lookout for a drive in Formula 1, had his first taste of a prototype during the Le Mans Series official test. Bruno was delighted with this experience and will have his maiden outing on the mythic Sarthe circuit in June. Before then, he will race in the Catalonian and Spa-Francorchamps 1000kms events. These will give him time to gather experience and learn about the specific aspects of endurance racing such as coping with traffic. Stéphane Ortelli, winner of the 1998 Le Mans 24 Hours and double FIA N-GT World Champion, will be on hand to advise Senna.



Like no.10, the no.11 Courage-Oreca will be entrusted to a pair of drivers who combine youth and experience. Olivier Panis, with 10 seasons in F1 under his belt and winner of the 1996 Monaco Grand Prix, will share the car with Nicolas Lapierre, the youngest ever victor of the Masters F3 Grand Prix in Macao, A1GP champion and winner of several GP2 Series races. After making a successful debut in the championship crowned by third place in the 2008 Spa-Francorchamps 1000kms, the two drivers like their sister car and the whole Team ORECA-Matmut squad have high hopes for 2009.

Two more drivers whose names will be announced in the near future will join Bruno, Stéphane, Olivier and Nicolas for the Le Mans 24 Hours. Until then, the Team ORECA-Matmut will continue its development tests with its sights set on the opening round of the 2009 Le Mans Series in Barcelona between 3rd – 5th April.



Araldite®



Plus

Powered by
aim



MOTUL



MSC Software®

Araldite® is a registered trademark of Huntsman Corporation or an affiliate thereof in one or more, but not all countries.

PRESS CONTACTS

ORECA
Laurie Gautier
lgautier@oreca.fr
Tél. : + 33 (0)494 889 824

MATMUT
Jessica Lecourt
lecourt.jessica@matmut.fr
Tél. : + 33 (0)235 637 008