

8th may 2010

**Second row for the Team ORECA-Matmut**

**The Peugeot 908 HDi FAP will start the Spa-Francorchamps 1000kms from fourth place on the grid.**



The Team ORECA-Matmut and Panis-Lapierre-Duval will start their final race before the Le Mans 24 Hours from the second row of the grid alongside the no. 2 Peugeot. Nicolas Lapierre in the no. 4 908 HDi FAP was quicker than two of the three Audi R 15 Pluses in the Spa-Francorchamps 1000kms qualifying session. Hugues de Chaunac is very satisfied with this position. "It's a good result," confirms the ORECA Group President. "Everybody is covered by a handkerchief except the pole setter. It's really true that you have to find a clear lap in qualifying. That was not the case for Nicolas but his time shows our level of performance. We're here beside Peugeot to take on Audi."

"I think I could have done better than fourth place," reckons Lapierre. "I decided to go out a bit later and I fell upon a lot of traffic. This being said, our classification proves that we're on the pace. The weather conditions changed quite a lot during practice, and we don't know what it'll be like in the race. Tyres could also play a very important role: it's a parameter that we'll have to pay particular attention to, as well as the strategy."

The team concentrated its attention on the car's behavior in race conditions to continue learning about the 908, running through a wide range of setups in the different free practice sessions. It was their first outing on a circuit other than the Paul Ricard HTTT track. It was the opportunity to fine-tune the various reference points, in particular traffic, which plays a very important role on the Belgian circuit as well as using the 2010 Michelin tyres for the first time. With uncertain weather that will require the right strategy, a high-quality field and a mythic circuit, all the factors are in place to prepare for Le Mans in the best possible fashion.

Hugues de Chaunac sums up: "The three drivers are on the pace of the quickest, and find themselves in a great position to begin our final rehearsal before Le Mans. We've fulfilled the first part of our contract. Now, we'll have to fulfill the second part tomorrow with two objectives: firstly, bring the car home without any damage and secondly, do so by matching the pace of the leaders and not making any mistakes. If that's the case then we'll be in contention for the podium."

Start: Sunday at 11h30



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