

# PRESS RELEASE

## YOKOHAMA

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For immediate release

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### Yokohama Rubber backs ADVAN KONDO Racing again for Le Mans Endurance racing at the 24 Hours of Le Mans

Tokyo—The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd. today announced that following last year's success, it will again support the ADVAN KONDO Racing's entry in the Prototype Class (LMP1) at the 72nd 24 Hours of Le Mans, to be held over the June 12-June 13 weekend at the Sarthe Circuit in France. Yokohama Rubber has developed special racing tires for the Prototype Class, and these tires will be made available to ADVAN KONDO Racing, which is led by team director Masahiko Kondo.

ADVAN KONDO Racing is a racing team put together last year by KONDO Racing (headed by Masahiko Kondo) with Yokohama Rubber as the main sponsor, and called the as the "ADVAN Le Mans Project". This year, too, the team is an all-Japanese effort, with Yokohama ADVAN tires, a DOME chassis, an M-TEC engine, and three Japanese drivers -- Hiroki Kato, Ryo Michigami, and Hayanari Shimoda. In 2003, despite a lot of technical problems, the team managed to complete the race, finishing 13th in its first attempt at Le Mans. This year, the team is aiming to finish with an even higher position, and has already produced a succession of good times in testing at the Spa-Francorchamps Circuit in March.

In addition to the 24 Hours of Le Mans, ADVAN KONDO Racing is entering the Monza 1000 km, one of the races in the Le Mans Endurance Series. In Japan, the team races in the Super Taikyu Series. At Le Mans, Yokohama Rubber is also providing tires to Choroq Racing, Seikel Motorsport, and the Morgan Works Race Team in support of their entries in the LM-GT Class.

The 24 Hours of Le Mans has a long and distinguished tradition beginning in 1923, and is known as being particularly punishing on both cars and drivers. There are two racing categories, the Prototype Class (LMP1/LMP2) for cars that are specially designed for racing, and the GT Class (LM-GTS/LM-GT) for production-based cars.



#### **ADVAN KONDO S101 details**

Chassis: DOME S101  
Overall length: 4950 mm  
Overall width: 1995 mm  
Wheelbase: 2850 mm  
Weight: 900 kg  
Engine: MUGEN-MF 408S  
Engine size: 4000 cc  
Engine layout: 90-degree V8  
Max. power: at least 410 Kw at 8750 rpm  
Max. torque: at least 500 Nm at 7500 rpm  
Valves: DOHC, 4-valves per cylinder  
Tires: ADVAN YOKOHAMA

The ADVAN KONDO S101 entered in the 24 Hours of Le Mans with (from left to right) team director Masahiko Kondo and drivers Hiroki Kato, Ryo Michigami and Hayanari Shimoda

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## *Team Director/Driver profiles and careers*



### **Masahiko Kondo (Team Director)**

**Date of birth: July 19, 1964**

**Birthplace: Kanagawa, Japan**

**Height: 173 cm**

**Weight: 58 kg**

**Blood type: O (Rh+)**

- 1988-93: Begins racing career  
Japan Formula 3 series
- 1994: First entry in 24 Hours of Le Mans  
Japan GT Championship Round 3 (first win), Round 5 (5th)
- 1995: All-Japan F3000 - all rounds  
Japan GT Championship Round 5 (win)  
24 Hours of Le Mans (10th)
- 1996: Formula Japan (17th in series)  
Japan GT Championship  
24 Hours of Le Mans
- 1997: Formula Japan  
Japan GT Championship
- 1998: Formula Japan  
Japan GT Championship
- 1999: Formula Japan, Rounds 1, 2, 3  
Japan GT Championship
- 2000: 24 Hours of Tokachi (win)  
Suzuka 1000 km (3rd)  
Sets up KONDO Racing  
Formula Japan  
Japan GT Championship  
24 Hours of Le Mans (8th)  
24 Hours of Tokachi (1st in class, 2nd overall)
- 2001: KONDO Racing enters Formula Japan  
Concentrates on team director role, gaining a 5th place in the team rankings  
Japan GT Championship  
24 Hours of Le Mans
- 2002: KONDO Racing enters Formula Japan  
Japan GT Championship  
KONDO Racing enters 24 Hours of Le Mans
- 2003: Collaborates with Yokohama Rubber to set up ADVAN KONDO Racing and enters 24 Hours of Le Mans. Completes the race and takes 13th place overall.



### **Hiroki Kato (Driver)**

**Date of birth: February 23, 1968**

**Birthplace: Kanagawa, Japan**

**Height: 167 cm**

**Weight: 58 kg**

**Blood group: B (Rh+)**

- 1990: F100 circuit kart debut  
FISCO Series Champion, 2nd in Tsukuba Series
- 1991: Mase Series Champion
- 1992: Formula TOYOTA (8th in series)
- 1993: Formula TOYOTA (2nd in series)
- 1995: Japan Formula 3 (3rd in series)  
Macau F3 Grand Prix
- 1998: Japan Formula 3 (2nd in series)  
Macau F3 Grand Prix (6th)
- 1999: Formula Japan  
24 Hours of Le Mans  
Fuji 1000 km (3rd)
- 2000: American Le Mans Series (10th in series)  
24 Hours of Le Mans (5th)
- 2001: Japan GT Championship  
FIASCC (2nd in series)  
24 Hours of Le Mans
- 2002: Japan GT Championship (ranked 4th)  
24 Hours of Le Mans (7th)
- 2003: Japan GT Championship  
MERDEKA MILLENIUM ENDURANCE RACE  
(class winner)



**Ryo Michigami (Driver)**

**Date of birth:** March 1, 1973

**Birthplace:** Nara, Japan

**Height:** 166 cm

**Weight:** 58 kg

**Blood group:** A (Rh+)

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|--|---|
| 1986: Kart National AS Class (series champion)<br>Kart National A2 Class (series champion) | 1998: Formula Japan, 9th in series (highest place: 3rd)<br>Japan GT Championship, 4th in series (2 wins)  |
| 1990: All Japan Kart Championship FA Class<br>(2nd in series)<br>Hong Kong Kart GP (2nd)   | 1999: Japan GT Championship, 10th in series<br>(highest place: 3rd)<br>Formula Japan, 10th in series (highest place: 2nd)<br>Best Driver of the Season<br>Suzuka 1000 km (win), JMS Award |
| 1991: Formula Mirage   | 2000: Japan GT Championship, series champion<br>[highest place: 2nd (4 times)]  |
| 1993: Formula Mirage<br>F4 Championship Suzuka/TI Series<br>(series champion)              | 2001: Formula Japan (6th in series)<br>Japan GT Championship, 3rd in series (1 win)   |
| 1994: Japan Formula 3 (5th in series, Rookie of the Year)<br>Macau F3 Grand Prix           | 2002: Formula Japan (6th in series)<br>Most Impressive Driver Award   |
| 1995: Japan Formula 3 (4th in series)<br>Japan GT Championship<br>Macau F3 Grand Prix      | 2003: Formula Japan (7th in series)<br>Japan GT Championship  |
| 1997: All Japan Touring Car Championships<br>N1 Endurance Series<br>Suzuka 1000 km         |   |



**Hayanari Shimoda (Driver)**

**Date of birth:** July 16, 1984

**Birthplace:** Tokyo, Japan

**Height:** 176 cm

**Weight:** 63 kg

**Blood group:** O (Rh+)

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|---|---|
| 1997: Kart debut at age 13  | 2002: Formula Renault UK Championship Series<br>Japan GT Championship Series Malaysia<br>(debut 7th)<br>Enters four rounds in second half of series<br>Passes international GT car test in UK<br>24 Hours of Le Mans (5th)  |
| 1998: SL Nasu Super Cup (win)<br>Kart Regional Championships Kanto-Nishi regional<br>spot   | 2003: Passes Formula Japan rookie test<br>12 hours of Sebring<br>FIA Sports Car Championship (Round 1, 2nd)<br>Formula Renault V6 (Round 7, 5th)<br>24 Hours of Le Mans, 2nd in LMP675 Class<br>(First Japanese 18-year old to complete the race)<br>FIA Sports Car Championship (Round 4, win)<br>International Suzuka 1000 km (3rd) |
| 1999-<br>2000: Puts racing career on hold to concentrate on education   |   |
| 2001: All Japan Kart Championship Series<br>(ICA Class win at Motegi)<br>Formula Renault Italy Championship Series<br>Formula Renault Italy Winter Series |   |