

NEWS RELEASE



YOKOHAMA

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For immediate release

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ADVAN 2006 Motor Sports

Tokyo - Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd., announces its plan for motor sports activities in 2006. Seeing motor sports as part of global development of its new global flagship brand “ADVAN,” the company will support a number of different racing categories in Japan and worldwide.

Major activities will be as follows:

2006 FIA World Touring Car Championship (WTCC)

As the designated one-make tire supplier, Yokohama Rubber will support all teams and drivers in the WTCC, which became the third FIA world championship in 2005, after joining F1 and WRC. To do this, Yokohama Rubber successfully developed tires with the same specifications for FF and FR cars, allowing them to perform to their maximum abilities in fair competition. The WTCC, contested primarily by European car manufacturers, is well known for its high levels of competition in exciting sprint races. Two races are staged per circuit (about 30 minutes each). The second race begins from a “greverse-grid”: Cars finishing first through eighth in the first race are positioned in reverse order, adding an additional element of suspense. Last year in Macau, racing on city streets was added, also upping the level of excitement. Beginning in Monza on April 2, the 2006 WTCC will feature twenty races on ten circuits, culminating again in Macau.

2006 FIA Production Car World Rally Championship (P-WRC)

This year - its third year of participation - Yokohama Rubber will partner again with the ADVAN-PIAA RALLY TEAM. The team's cars are the Lancer Evolution wearing the “Red in Black” ADVAN colors. This season's first race has already taken place in Monte Carlo, and, with an impressive win in that traditional event, the team is off to a good start. In 2006, the Lancer Evolution in ADVAN colors driven by Fumio Nutahara is aiming for championships in two series, the P-WRC and the All Japan Rally Championship, the top rally championship in Japan. Nutahara has won the All Japan Rally Championship series four years in row.

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Le Mans 24 Hours

Having been part of this race for 23 years in row, Yokohama Rubber will again participate in the LMP1 class, the top category, partnering, as last year, with the distinguished French racing team “Courage Competition.” For this year, Yokohama Rubber has produced tires matched to a new model developed by Courage Competition, aiming for an overall victory. It will also take part the Le Mans Series 2006 - five races staged throughout Europe - in partnership with Courage Competition.

American Le Mans Series

Yokohama Rubber has a new partner in TEAM PTG (Prototype Technology Group), replacing the team that triumphed in the LMGT 2 class at Le Mans 24 Hours last year. Supported by BMW North America, TEAM PTG has already recorded one overall victory in Le Mans 24 Hours. This year, the team will use two BMW M3's painted in the ADVAN colors, further boosting the image of Yokohama Rubber's high-performance tires in the American market. A total of ten races in the American Le Mans Series will start in March at Sebring.

China Rally Championship/China Touring Car Championship

In the two most popular racing categories in China, where people are increasingly interested in motor sports, users of Yokohama Rubber's tires won series championships in most classes last year. Not only will Yokohama Rubber continue its partnership with the Shanghai Volkswagen 333 Team - the strongest and most popular team in China - it will join forces with other leading teams as well, aiming at series championships in all classes in which it participates.

SUPER GT 2006 SERIES

Yokohama Rubber will continue its partnership with Toyota Team Tsuchiya, which gained a valuable win in the first race held last year. Partnering also with KONDO Racing running a Nissan Fairlady Z, Yokohama Rubber will participate in the GT500 class in competition with multiple tire suppliers. The company will thus participate with two cars this year - one Toyota and one Nissan - each with the best tires for its own performance characteristics, developed in their competitive pursuit of higher rankings. In the GT300 class, Yokohama Rubber will, this year, too, supply racing tires to a number of teams.

Other Races to Support

- The Super Taikyu Race: Series victories in four out of five classes last year.
- All Japan Gymkhana Championship: Series victories in five out of nine classes last year.
- All Japan Rally Championship: Series victories in two out of six classes last year.
- All Japan Dirt Trial: Series victory in the N3 class, the hottest race, last year.

Yokohama One-Make Tire Categories

As a reliable supplier of high-performance tires, Yokohama Rubber will support the following races:

- Macau Grand Prix F3 (China): Has provided tires 23 years in row. This year two main races at Macau - the “F3 Grand Prix” and “WTCC final race” - will be staged as one-make races using Yokohama Rubber’s tires.
- Formula Atlantic (U.S.A.): Has provided tires 18 years in row.
- FIM Sidecar World Championship
- Asian F3 Championship
- Formula 4, Racing Carts, etc. - introductory categories in the world of motor sports

Yokohama Rubber will support teams using its tires to achieve the best possible performance, and will use the data and experience it gains through such supporting activities in its development of commercial tires.

Major Plans

*Information as of February 9, 2006 (provisional)

2006 FIA World Touring Car Championship (WTCC)

2006 Race Calendar

Round	Date	Host Country	Venue
Official tests	3/21-22	Italy	Monza
01 & 02	4/2	Italy	Monza
03 & 04	4/30	France	Magny-Cours
05 & 06	5/21	Great Britain	Brands Hatch
07 & 08	6/4	Germany	Oschersleben
09 & 10	7/2	Brazil	Curitiba
11 & 12	7/30	Mexico	Puebla
13 & 14	9/3	Czech Republic	Brno
15 & 16	9/24	Turkey	Istanbul
17 & 18	10/8	Spain	Valencia
19 & 20	11/19	China	Macau

Le Mans 24 Hours

Class	Team
LMP1	Courage Competition
LMGT2	Leading teams (pending)

2006 Race Calendar

Date	Host Country	Venue
6/17-18	France	Sarthe

Le Mans Series

Class	Team
LMP1	Courage Competition
LMGT2	Leading teams (pending)

2006 Race Calendar

Round	Date	Host Country	Venue
01	4/9	Turkey	Istanbul
02	5/14	Belgium	Spa
03	7/16	Germany	Nurburgring
04	8/27	Great Britain	Donington
05	9/24	Italy	Monza

American Le Mans Series

Class	Team	Car
LMGT2	TEAM PTG	BMW M3
	leading teams (pending)	

2006 Race Calendar

Round	Date	Venue
01	3/18-19	Sebring, Florida
02	5/12	Houston, Texas
03	5/21	Mid-Ohio, Ohio
04	7/1	Lime Rock, Connecticut
05	7/15	Salt Lake City, Utah
06	7/22	Portland, Oregon
07	8/20	Road America, Wisconsin
08	9/3	Mosport, Ontario, Canada
09	9/30	Petit Le Mans, Road Atlanta, Georgia
10	10/21	Laguna Seca, California

China Rally Championship

Class	Team
2000cc	Honghe Rally Team
	Wanyu Rally Team
	Others
1600cc	Shanghai VW333 Team

2006 Race Calendar

Round	Date	Venue
01	3/24-26	Shanghai
02	8/4-6	Liupanshui, Guizhou
03	9/22-24	Guizhou
04	10/20-22	Zhejiang
05	11/25-27	Guangdong

China Touringcar Championship

Class	Team
1600cc	Shanghai VW333 Team
	Team Gear Sports
	Others

2006 Race Calendar

Round	Date	Venue
01	3/12	Shanghai
02	4/16	Zhuhai
03	5/28	Zhuhai
04	8/27	Shanghai
05	9/17	Beijing
06	10/29	Beijing

SUPER GT 2006 SERIES

Class	Team	Car
GT500	Toyota Team Tsuchiya	Toyota Supra GT
	KONDO Racing	Nissan Fairlady Z
GT300	Leading teams (pending)	

2006 Race Calendar

Round	Date	Venue
01	3/19	Suzuka Circuit
02	4/9	Okayama International Circuit
03	5/4	Fuji Speedway
04	6/25	Sepang International Circuit, Malaysia
05	7/23	Sports Land SUGO
06	8/20	Suzuka Circuit
07	9/10	Twin Link Motegi
08	10/15	Auto Polis
09	11/5	Fuji Speedway