

## Hyundai Motorsport reveals search for WRC talent of the future

- Hyundai Motorsport Driver development Program (HMDP) sets out objective to identify and nurture future world rally star
- Initial pre-selection to take place in August with up to eight candidates undergoing a driving assessment in September
- The winning crew will be announced later in the year with a comprehensive itinerary planned for 2018.

Alzenau, Germany

August 1, 2017 – Hyundai Motorsport has reaffirmed its commitment to the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) by announcing plans to support a potential WRC star.

Run under the existing Hyundai Motorsport Driver development Program (HMDP), the company is embarking on an intensive selection process.

From a pool of 16 candidates invited to Alzenau, who have already been identified, only a maximum of eight will be invited to remain onto the second stage of the process. Ultimately only one winner will represent Hyundai Motorsport on the global rally stage, participating in selected WRC2 events in 2018 in a New Generation i20 R5 car.

An initial pre-selection event is taking place this month with prospective hopefuls being assessed across a range of criteria. Covering technical understanding, English language, PR skills, and communication with mechanics and engineers, it is an all-encompassing activity with a group of the most well-rounded candidates going onto the next step.

The drivers, along with their respective co-drivers, will undertake tests on tarmac and gravel in September, before a final decision is made on the prize winner. Hyundai Motorsport will also nominate a team to run the program on its behalf throughout 2018.

A dedicated panel of team management will be involved in the selection process, including Team Principal Michel Nandan, Team Manager Alain Penasse, Customer Racing Manager Andrea Adamo and Director of Marketing and PR Stefan Ph. Henrich.

Hyundai Motorsport Team Principal Michel Nandan said: *“We have been developing our rally activities over the past few years with our successful WRC and Customer Racing activities. The Hyundai Motorsport Driver development Program is a further example of our commitment to rallying. We are excited to begin our search for a future WRC star. There is so much untapped talent; we want to help nurture the stars of tomorrow. We will put initial candidates through the ultimate assessment to identify the best on the market. The winning crew will be announced later in the year with a comprehensive itinerary planned for 2018. We look forward to starting the process of this exciting initiative.”*

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### **About the Hyundai Motorsport Customer Racing department**

Hyundai Motorsport GmbH established its Customer Project department in September 2015 with the aim of enhancing Hyundai's motorsport image around the world – in parallel to its successful WRC programme. Following its debut the New Generation i20 R5 quickly proved popular with teams and drivers across Europe. The car is designed so that both professional and amateur drivers can compete in the full range of international, regional and national championships where R5-specification cars are eligible. In February 2017 the Hyundai Motorsport announced their second Customer Racing project, a car designed to the TCR regulations, which the Customer Racing department will oversee alongside continuing to support their existing clients.

Further information about Hyundai Motorsport is available at: <http://motorsport.hyundai.com>

### **About Hyundai Motor**

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Company is committed to becoming a lifetime partner in automobiles and beyond. The company leads the Hyundai Motor Group, an innovative business structure capable of circulating resources from molten iron to finished cars. Hyundai Motor has eight manufacturing bases and seven design & technical centres worldwide and in 2015 sold 4.96 million vehicles globally. With more than 110,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai Motor continues to enhance its product line-up with localised models and strives to strengthen its leadership in clean technology, starting with the world's first mass-produced hydrogen-powered vehicle, Tucson Fuel Cell and IONIQ, the world's first model with three electrified powertrains.

More information about Hyundai Motor and its products can be found at: <http://worldwide.hyundai.com> or <http://globalpr.hyundai.com/>

To download high-resolution photos for editorial use, full drivers' profiles, as well as other useful press information about the team please refer to:

<http://press.motorsport.hyundai.com/home>

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