



## Hyundai Motorsport reflects on maiden FIA WTCR titles\*

- The Hyundai Motorsport built i30 N TCR helped Gabriele Tarquini to claim the inaugural FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) drivers' title in Macau on Sunday
- YMRacing secured the teams' crown to make it a double success for Hyundai Motorsport customers in the season finale
- Hyundai has quickly become an impressive force in circuit racing with its i30 N TCR playing a key role in technology transfer onto high performance road vehicles.

Alzenau, Germany

November 19, 2018 – Hyundai Motorsport has seen its i30 N TCR take the company's maiden titles in the inaugural FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) with its customers securing both drivers' and teams' championships.

The battle for title honours went right down to the wire in the season-ending Race of Macau with Gabriele Tarquini emerging victorious in the drivers' battle and YMRacing sealing the teams' honours after a dramatic weekend.

Across the ten-event WTCR series, Hyundai Motorsport's i30 N TCR has established itself as the car to beat, setting the standard often in spite of the numerous Balance of Performance restrictions imposed on the vehicle. Customer teams amassed 13 victories in total between four drivers – Tarquini, Norbert Michelisz (BRC Racing Team), Thed Björk and Yvan Muller (YMRacing). In addition, the i30 N TCR tallied 11 pole positions and 14 fastest laps during the year.

For Hyundai Motorsport, the drivers' title has particular poignancy as Tarquini himself had led testing and development of the i30 N TCR following the company's move into circuit racing at the start of 2017. That the Italian claimed five WTCR wins, five fastest laps and two poles underscored his comfort and pace inside the cockpit of the car.

Hyundai Motorsport's Customer Racing department began as an offshoot from its ambitious FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) activities in 2015. Initially focused on development of an R5-specification rally car based on the i20, the company made a bold decision to consider a circuit-racing program.

Design work for the i30 N TCR began in September 2016. Testing and development continued throughout the following year, with the car completing more than 7,000km at circuits across Europe. In September 2017, the i30 N TCR made its competitive debut in the TCR International Series, claiming a sensational win at the Zhejiang Circuit in China.

In its debut season customer teams competed with the i30 N TCR all over the world, in addition to the maiden WTCR campaign. Up to eight i30 N TCR competed in TCR Europe during 2018, winning five of the first ten races. Customers are also running in TCR Italy, TCR Germany and TCR UK, as well as the Pirelli World Challenge in the USA, where the team won two championships. A pair of i30 N TCR also competed in the Nürburgring 24 Hours in May, winning pole position for the TCR class and finishing

### Hyundai i30 N TCR Official Suppliers



on the class podium.

These latest WTCR titles reinforce Hyundai's growing reputation in international motorsport. Its motorsport strategy, led by Hyundai Motorsport, is positively influencing the Korean car manufacturer's road models. Success in circuit racing, as well as the international rallying program, has played an integral part in honing the corporation's high performance N brand, and has more recently fed into Hyundai's High Performance Vehicle and Motorsport Division.

Customer Racing perfectly epitomises N's brand values of vehicle performance and human emotion. Hyundai Motorsport has embodied the spirit of N through its customer support, determination and dedication to achieve its goals. From humble beginnings, Hyundai's i30 N TCR has taken on tough opposition, tackled new territories and emerged with its most significant milestone to date: debut FIA World Touring Car Cup titles.

**Executive Vice President, Head of Product Planning & Strategy Division of Hyundai Motor Group, Mr. Thomas Schemera:** "Hyundai Motorsport's Customer Racing activities have truly captured the spirit of Hyundai and our N high-performance brand with the performance of the i30 N TCR. The successes of our customers this year, in particular YMRacing and Gabriele Tarquini taking the maiden WTCR titles, have been fantastic to follow. Motorsport and high performance go hand in hand at Hyundai; we will now focus on transferring that winning feeling onto customers around the world and to enhance their enjoyment of driving Hyundai vehicles."

**Andrea Adamo, Hyundai Motorsport Customer Racing Deputy General Manager:** *"When we set out on our Customer Racing mission, firstly with an R5-spec rally car and then with the i30 N TCR, we never dreamed that we would be celebrating titles with our customers so soon. What Gabriele has achieved in WTCR this season is phenomenal and his contribution to our circuit-racing program has been truly inspirational. He is the epitome of motorsport; that is having a direct positive influence on how we operate at Hyundai Motorsport and on Hyundai's global brand. All of our customers have demonstrated the strengths of our i30 N TCR this season, not only in WTCR but also around the world in other TCR series. We are grateful to all of them for their support, and I'd take this opportunity to thank everyone at Alzenau for allowing us to prepare vehicles for our customers that allow them to fight for titles. These are now firm foundations from which we will continue to grow Hyundai Motorsport's Customer Racing division."*

*\*Subject to the confirmation of the results by the FIA*

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**About the Hyundai Motorsport Customer Racing department**

Hyundai Motorsport GmbH established its Customer Racing department in September 2015 with the aim of enhancing Hyundai's motorsport image around the world – in parallel to its WRC program. Following its debut the 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 designs are eligible. In February 2017 the Hyundai Motorsport announced their second Customer Racing project, a circuit racer designed to the TCR regulations. After extensive testing the i30 N TCR scored a sensational debut win in China. In the hands of privateer teams Hyundai Motorsport-built cars have now claimed victory in several championships, including national rally series in France and Spain the teams' and drivers' titles from the inaugural FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) season\*.

\*Subject to confirmation of the results by the FIA

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

**About Hyundai Motor Company**

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Company is committed to becoming a lifetime partner in automobiles and beyond. The company, which leads the Hyundai Motor Group, an innovative business structure capable of circulating resources from molten iron to finished cars, offers top-quality bestsellers such as Elantra, Sonata and Genesis. Hyundai Motor has eight manufacturing bases and seven design & technical centres worldwide and in 2014, sold 4.96 million vehicles globally. With almost 100,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai Motor continues to enhance its product line-up with localized models and strives to strengthen its leadership in clean technology, starting with the world's first mass-produced hydrogen-powered vehicle, ix35 Fuel Cell.

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

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

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

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