

## Final race victory ends title winning TCR Europe season on perfect note

- Victory in the final race of the season at Autodromo Nazionale Monza clinched the TCR Europe title for Target Competition Hyundai i30 N TCR driver Josh Files
- His success added to the excellent season for Hyundai teams in the series, with Target already having clinched the teams' championship at the penultimate round
- i30 N TCR filled five of the top-ten places in the final standings, with drivers representing three different customer teams amongst the places.

Alzenau, Germany

October 13, 2019 – Victory in the final race of the TCR Europe season gave Josh Files the drivers' title to add the teams' honour already secured by his Target Competition squad to complete an i30 N TCR sweep of championships in the incredibly competitive series.

In line with much of the season the final weekend at Monza welcomed a grid of over 30 cars. Holding a 48 point advantage before the weekend, Files was only ninth fastest in qualifying at the straight-line speed critical Italian circuit, allowing his nearest rival to edge closer. However, a stellar drive in Race 1, climbing up the order to take a podium spot in third, limited the impact upon the points' standings.

Starting from the front row for Race 2 Files quickly made his way to the front to lead the opening lap. From there he was able to control his pace, relying on the i30 N TCR to keep him ahead while his title rival made his way through the pack behind. Their battle rose to a climax in the final laps with first and second in the championship also first and second on track. However, Files was able to maintain his advantage to score his third win of the season.

The weekend completed a very strong season for Hyundai customers in the championship. Ten i30 N TCR were amongst the field for most of the year – peaking at 11 with the one-off visit of Lewis Kent to the series at Spa-Francorchamps. From the start – when Hyundai teams locked out the podium in the first race of the campaign – the i30 N TCR has been at the front of the field. As well as Files' three victories on his way to the title, Maťo Homola and Hyundai Motorsport Customer Racing Junior Drivers Luca Engstler and Andreas Bäckman took a win apiece from the 14-race season. Hyundai customers also topped qualifying on five out of the seven weekends and stood on the podium a total of 17 times – eight of which went to Files, including a streak of four consecutive rostrum visits spanning the two contests at Red Bull Ring and Oschersleben.

With Files confirmed at the top of the standings i30 N TCR customers filled five of the top-ten places in the final points. Andreas Bäckman completed his maiden TCR Europe season in fourth ahead of M Racing driver Nelson Panciatici in fifth. Homola and Engstler finished eighth and ninth respectively.

In the teams' contest Target Competition – whose five-strong driver line-up included not only Files but also race winners Homola and Bäckman – eased to the teams' title when the latter took his first TCR Europe career victory in the penultimate round in Barcelona. The M1RA team that ran Engstler for the season finished fourth in the championship. M Racing ended their first season of TCR Europe racing in fifth.

Hyundai Motorsport Customer Racing Senior Sales Associate Andrew Johns said: “TCR Europe has

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*been perhaps the hardest fought of any TCR series this season, with a large grid and some very close battles in the races. To have Hyundai i30 N TCR winning nearly half the races, and to end the year with customers taking both the drivers' and teams' championship is a huge success to be able to add to the growing list of honours for Hyundai Motorsport-built TCR cars. However, the performance of all the Hyundai teams in the series also shows the value of the support service the Customer Racing department has been able to offer our customers at the track at events, making sure that the cars always race in the best possible condition, and are always capable to scoring pole positions, wins and podiums."*

### **2019 TCR Europe Series Drivers' Standings**

After round 14

<b>1</b>	<b>J. Files</b>	<b>352</b>
2	J. Briche	314
3	S. Urrutia	234
<b>4</b>	<b>A. Bäckman</b>	<b>218</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>N. Panciatici</b>	<b>205</b>
6	G. Magnus	202
7	A. Comte	197
<b>8</b>	<b>M. Homola</b>	<b>194</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>L. Engstler</b>	<b>192</b>
10	D. Lloyd	183

### **2019 TCR Europe Series Teams' Standings**

After round 14

<b>1</b>	<b>Target Competition</b>	<b>792</b>
2	Team WRT	431
3	JSB Competition	324
<b>4</b>	<b>M1RA</b>	<b>293</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>M Racing</b>	<b>247</b>
6	Comtoyou racing	220

-Ends-

### **About Hyundai Motorsport GmbH**

Established on 19 December 2012, Hyundai Motorsport GmbH is responsible for Hyundai's global motorsport activities, including the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), Customer Racing and electric racing projects. In WRC, Hyundai Motorsport quickly established a strong reputation taking victory in its debut season in 2014. The team amassed ten wins up to the end of the 2018 season and finished as runners-up in the manufacturers' championship on three consecutive occasions. Since the establishment of its Customer Racing activities in September 2015, Hyundai Motorsport has become a trusted partner for teams and drivers looking for success on the rally stages or on racetracks around the world. From its competitive i20 R5 rally car to the competitive i30 N TCR, Hyundai Motorsport-built cars have claimed victory in several championships, including national rally series in France and Spain, as well as the teams' and drivers' titles in the inaugural FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) season. Designed and built at its Alzenau headquarters, the Veloster N ETCR was unveiled in September 2019 and heralds an exciting new era, in which electric racing is set to become one of the company's pillars. Unified under Hyundai Motorsport, WRC, Customer Racing and electric racing are together playing instrumental roles in driving Hyundai's global high-performance N brand, and are supporting an important perception shift for the Hyundai brand around the world.

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 and technical centers worldwide and in 2017 sold about 4.5 million vehicles globally. With more than 110,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai Motor continues to enhance its product lineup with localized models and strives to strengthen its leadership in clean technology, starting with the world's first mass-produced fuel cell electric vehicle ix35 Fuel cell and IONIQ, the world's first model with three electrified powertrains in a single body type.

More information about Hyundai Motor and its products can be found at:

<http://worldwide.hyundai.com> or <http://globalpr.hyundai.com/>

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