**BETTER VALUE AND NEW LOOK FOR GT86 CUP IN 2017**

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The GT86 Cup from TOYOTA Motorsport GmbH (TMG) will feature a new-look car, updated regulations, attractive prizes and a reduced registration fee when it starts its fifth season on 25 March.

The GT86 Cup, which runs within the VLN series on the Nürburgring Nordschleife, is already recognised as one of the most cost-effective ways to race and TMG has further optimised the competition to support an expanding grid.

From the beginning, 2017 participants will benefit from a better-value package with a reduced entry fee of just €1,000 for entries received before 30 January 2017, rising to €1,800 after.

Success will again be well rewarded, with over €50,000 of prizes for final championship positions, including €20,000 for the winning team and €12,000 for the runner-up. The third-place team receives €8,000 while fourth place earns €5,000.

Updated regulations have generated more flexibility, with final standings based on points scored in eight of the nine races, according to the team’s retrospective nomination. Two points for pole position also promises to make qualifying more exciting than ever.

A new partnership with BRM Chronographes delivers additional incentive. BRM craftsmen will create a bespoke, high-value timepiece celebrating TMG’s motorsport activities, with the Cup-winning team owner and drivers each receiving one.

Another new addition to the Cup landscape is the Nürburgring 24 Hours on 27-28 May. Although not a points-scoring race, TMG will offer special incentives and prizes to encourage Cup participants to enter one of the world’s classic endurance races.

Practical on-track support will also be optimised in 2017, with an efficient spare parts supply and prompt technical support offered as standard at all nine races, plus the Nürburgring 24 Hours. Official tyre partner Pirelli will offer a similar service, delivering first-class support and expertise to help competitors maximise their CS-Cup car no matter what the conditions.

High performance oil and lubricants will be demonstrated in all CS-Cup cars courtesy of official partner Ravenol, which joins the Cup for the 2017 season.

While the fun factor, impressive reliability and low costs remain trademarks of the Cup, newcomers will show off a new look. All new CS-Cup cars will be aligned with the updated external appearance of the GT86 road car, while existing participants will be given the technical support to also upgrade their vehicles.

The CS-Cup car is available for €45,900 (plus VAT) to participants who sign up to the GT86 Cup and can be financed on favourable terms via TOYOTA Kreditbank for Germany-based entrants.

**Nico Ehlert, Principal Engineer Customer Motorsport:** “I am excited by the GT86 Cup for 2017. We have really enhanced the package for new and existing participants, and already we see a significant increase in interest. We will have new teams in 2017 and we are working hard to secure further new entries. I cannot wait to see how the full grid takes shape and also to watch the competition between our new and existing teams. I am sure it will be great season, filled with action and tension as always. I would like to thank our existing teams for their loyalty whilst welcoming our new participants and partners for 2017. I firmly believe it will be a successful and memorable season in the GT86 Cup.”

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**TMG media contact:** Alastair Moffitt, Marketing & Communications Manager: [alastair.moffitt@toyota-motorsport.com](mailto:alastair.moffitt@toyota-motorsport.com)

**About TOYOTA Motorsport GmbH:**

TOYOTA Motorsport GmbH (TMG) has been based in Cologne, Germany since 1979 and built its reputation in the World Rally Championship, winning four drivers’ and three manufacturers’ titles during two decades of competition. TMG was also the home of TOYOTA’s works Le Mans 24 Hours (1998-1999) and Formula 1 (2002-2009) teams and a tuning and sports conversion subsidiary (established in 1994). TMG has competed in the World Endurance Championship since 2012, winning the drivers’ and manufacturers’ World Championship in 2014. Since 2009, TMG is a leading engineering services supplier, offering its cutting-edge development facilities and know-how to a range of industries. In recent years TMG has developed a thriving customer motorsport business, selling cost-efficient but high-performance cars to private participants.

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