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**BMW Team RLL Carries Winning Momentum to Petit Le Mans;  
Bill Auberlen to Make Record 400th Start for BMW.**

**Woodcliff Lake, N.J. – Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017...** BMW Team RLL will close the team's ninth year of sports car competition with the running of this Saturday's Motul Petit Le Mans, the traditional IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship season finale. The 10-hour race at Road Atlanta, in Braselton, Ga., is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year and sets the perfect stage for a very special landmark for Bill Auberlen.

In making the 550th start in his professional career, Auberlen will celebrate his 400th start in a BMW. Joining BMW Team PTG in 1996 Auberlen has remained a part of every BMW of North America racing program for more than two decades. Racing for BMW Team RLL since 2009, Auberlen has co-driven to the first victory for each model contested - the BMW M3, BMW Z4 and BMW M6. One of the world's best, Auberlen stands first in all-time North American pole positions and second in all-time victories.

BMW Team RLL arrives at Petit Le Mans having won its third race of the season at Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. The victory by John Edwards and Martin Tomczyk, driving the No. 24 BMW M6 GTLM, adds to the duo's three additional podiums this

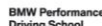


season to bring them to stand sixth in GTLM driver points. Nicky Catsburg will support Edwards and Tomczyk in the No. 24 M6 for Petit Le Mans as he did at Sebring. Teammates Auberlen and Alexander Sims stand third in GTLM driver points having won two races in the No. 25. M6 GTLM in addition to one second place finish. Kuno Wittmer will join Auberlen and Sims at Petit Le Mans. BMW stands third in GTLM manufacturer points, nine points from the leader.

"I think that victory at Laguna Seca was perhaps our finest with BMW in the many years of our partnership," said **Bobby Rahal, Team Principal**. "The strategy worked out perfectly and John Edwards did a great job getting the mileage we needed while still going fast enough to maintain the lead while the crew had good pit stops. It really worked out well. I won't deny there were times I was worried about the fuel situation but in the end it worked out and he even saved more fuel than was necessary. Kudos to all involved. It really was a great win for BMW Team RLL and to be able to continue that momentum to the Petit Le Mans should help us end the season strongly.

Commenting on Petit Le Mans he continued, "Petit has been kind of a challenging experience for us over the years. We have secured the championship there a few times and been on the podium a couple of times but it's like anything with a race of that length -- and especially on that circuit -- there are a lot of things that can happen. It's just one of those races that is unpredictable. But having said that, I think we have a good feel for the car now and BMW has done a great job and I think this year is probably our best chance to win the race. It's going to be a tough fight, it always is there, but based on our competitiveness at places like Road America, Mosport, VIR and others, there is no reason why we shouldn't be pretty good at Road Atlanta."

"Frankly it has been a tricky season for the team. Looking back, we should have won more races. In Austin we blew the red light leaving the pits and got a drive through and that finished our chance for the win...even though we ended up with second and third. Running out of fuel at Road America was obviously a situation you never want to happen and at VIR we had a dominant car and had the lead, but suffered a tire puncture cutting short our championship hopes. We want to finish the season on a high note and just have to go out and win this race and by doing so I think we will have won more races than any other manufacturer. I look back over the season and think of the 'What if's'. You can't change history but you can look back, analyze and learn from your mistakes. We will be doing a lot of that in the off season to come back stronger."



**Bill Auberlen, driver No. 25 BMW M6 GTLM:** “The amount of work done by everyone that has contributed to this effort over the last two years of the BMW M6 program has been extraordinary. Although we can’t win the championship, we can certainly win this race. 400 races for BMW? It has been great, but I don’t often look back. Bring on the next one!”

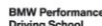
**Alexander Sims, driver No. 25 BMW M6 GTLM:** “Petit Le Mans will certainly be exciting. Like Daytona and Sebring, it is another race that I have wanted to add to my resume. I have truly enjoyed racing in the States this season and look forward to capping the year with a good result.”

**Kuno Wittmer, driver No. 24 BMW M6 GTLM:** “While I have tested quite a bit this year it has been since Sebring that I have been behind the wheel of the M6 in a race. I have been at every event since then as a reserve driver, but obviously I am eager to race in what is now a very competitive car.”

**John Edwards, driver No. 24 BMW M6 GTLM:** “Martin and I were thrilled to get our first win together last race at Laguna Seca. After winning at a track that we didn’t expect to suit the M6, I have even more confidence heading to Petit Le Mans that we can fight for the win there. The fast nature of the track highlights the M6’s strengths, the same way tracks like Watkins Glen and Mosport did earlier in the season. We’ve finished 2nd twice at Petit Lemans, including a 2nd place overall in the monsoon race of 2015, but victory has always eluded BMW at this race so a final win to cap off the season would be very satisfying.”

**Martin Tomczyk, driver No. 24 BMW M6 GTLM:** “This season really flew by. I truly enjoyed the experience with Team RLL and learning the American way of racing. I have heard that Road Atlanta is a great circuit. Unfortunately, bad weather did not allow us to test there so it will be an all-new experience for me.”

**Nicky Catsburg, driver No. 25 BMW M6 GTLM:** "Petit Le Mans is an event which I always wanted to do, to be able to do it now with BMW Team RLL is great. I can't wait to be teaming up with John and Martin, they just had a win at Laguna Seca so I am



stepping in at the right time. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to test at Road Atlanta due to the stormy weather, I am sure my American teammates will bring me up to speed quickly."

The Motul Petit Le Mans takes the green flag at 11:05 a.m. ET Saturday, Oct. 7th. FOX Sports 1 will broadcast the pre-race activities and opening laps beginning at 10:30 a.m. FOX Sports 2 will pick up the race from 11:30 to 2:30 p.m. and then from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Follow BMW Team RLL on Twitter at [@BMWUSARacing](https://twitter.com/BMWUSARacing) for "from-the-pit-box" updates all weekend.

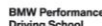
### **BMW Group in America**

BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars NA, LLC began distributing vehicles in 2003. The BMW Group in the United States has grown to include marketing, sales, and financial service organizations for the BMW brand of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, the MINI brand, and the Rolls-Royce brand of Motor Cars; Designworks, a strategic design consultancy based in California; a technology office in Silicon Valley and various other operations throughout the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is part of BMW Group's global manufacturing network and is the exclusive manufacturing plant for all X5 and X3 Sports Activity Vehicles and X6 and X4 Sports Activity Coupes. The BMW Group sales organization is represented in the U.S. through networks of 344 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 153 BMW motorcycle retailers, 127 MINI passenger car dealers, and 36 Rolls-Royce Motor Car dealers. BMW (US) Holding Corp., the BMW Group's sales headquarters for North America, is located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

### **The BMW Group**

With its three brands BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. As a global company, the BMW Group operates 31 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries and has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2016, the BMW Group sold approximately 2.367 million cars and 145,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax was approximately € 9.67 billion on revenues amounting to



€ 94.16 billion. As of 31 December 2016, the BMW Group had a workforce of 124,729 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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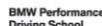
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### **Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing**

BMW's partner, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, based in Hilliard, Ohio and co-owned by three-time IndyCar Champion and 1986 Indianapolis 500 winner Bobby Rahal, former CBS Late Show host David Letterman and Mi-Jack co-owner Mike Lanigan, has been competing for over two decades. Prior to the start of their 26th season of competition in 2017, the team had compiled 38 victories, 51 poles, 151 podium finishes, three series championships (1992, 2010, 2011) and claimed an Indianapolis 500 victory (Buddy Rice in 2004). In 2009 the team joined BMW of North America to campaign the new BMW M3 in the American Le Mans Series. The following year the team won both the Manufacturer and Team Championships in the GT category and swept all three GT titles - Manufacturer, Team and Driver – in 2011. In 2012 the team finished second in the Team Championship and third in the Manufacturer Championship and in 2013, the team finished second in the Driver, Team and Manufacturer Championship. The 2014 season brought a new challenge with the creation of the IMSA United SportsCar Championship and the team finished on the podium six times including four second-place finishes. In 2015, the team earned three wins, two poles and a total of eight podium finishes to finish second in the Manufacturer, Team and Driver championships and added two poles and three podiums in 2016. Prior to the start of the 2017 season, BMW Team RLL had won 13 races, 22 poles and 60 podium finishes.

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