

Media Information
FIA Formula E Championship
3rd February 2018

First race outing for the new BMW i8 Coupé Qualcomm Safety Car – Félix da Costa in the points for MS&AD Andretti Formula E.

- **The new BMW i8 Coupé Qualcomm Safety Car makes its first appearance after a crash on lap one in Santiago.**
- **MS&AD Andretti Formula E drivers António Félix da Costa and Tom Blomqvist produce impressive fightbacks.**
- **Félix da Costa finishes ninth to pick up points in the Drivers' Championship.**

Santiago. Two days after its unveiling in Santiago de Chile (CHI), the new BMW i8 Coupé Qualcomm Safety Car enjoyed its first race outing. The safety car was soon out on track following a number of crashes on the opening lap of the spectacular fourth race of the season in the ABB FIA Formula E Championship, which was the series' first appearance in the Chilean capital. MS&AD Andretti Formula E driver António Félix da Costa (POR) recovered from a difficult qualifying to fight back strongly in the race. He eventually came home ninth and was rewarded for his efforts with two points. His team-mate Tom Blomqvist (GBR) also drove well and finished eleventh, just outside the points.

The qualifying

Félix da Costa was the first driver in qualifying group one to embark on his flying lap. That was not ideal, as the grip improved throughout the qualifying session. His fastest lap time of 1:20.132 minutes was only good enough for 16th place on the grid. Blomqvist started the second qualifying session of his Formula E career in group four. He touched the wall in the final sector of his flying lap, and had to settle for a time of 1:20.422 minutes and 18th place. Pole position went to Jean-Eric Vergne (FRA).

The race

A number of cars were involved in collisions on the opening lap, resulting in a yellow flag period. That meant the new BMW i8 Coupé Qualcomm Safety Car made its first appearance on track during a race. Blomqvist made good progress on lap one,

while Félix da Costa had to take evasive action to avoid a crash and dropped back behind his team-mate. However, the Portuguese driver regained his place ahead of Blomqvist at the pit stop, which was held without a minimum time for the first time, and so the race developed into a genuine battle for every tenth of a second. In the second half of the race, Félix da Costa benefitted from being able to stay out a lap longer than the opposition before coming in to switch cars. With more energy at his disposal he was quick in the second car and climbed into ninth place to finish in the points. Blomqvist ended his second Formula E race in eleventh, just outside the points. Victory in the spectacular race went to Vergne.

The reactions

António Félix da Costa, MS&AD Andretti Formula E: “Unfortunately, I had a poor start position in qualifying, as I was the first driver out and the track was still slippery. There was not a lot more I could have done. Our speed was much better in the race and I was able to stay out for a lap longer than most of the others in my first stint. However, I could then have pushed even harder with the energy in the second car. We are learning every day about energy management, and today was no different. All in all, this result gives me optimism for the races ahead.”

Tom Blomqvist, MS&AD Andretti Formula E: “I touched the wall in the final sector of my qualifying lap. Starting from so far back obviously does not make the race any easier. I kept out of all the turmoil. Eleventh place is ok given that we still have a lot to learn. However, to be honest, I had the feeling that we could still have got more out of that race.”

The BMW i Fleet

BMW i is once again “Official Vehicle Partner” of the ABB FIA Formula E Championship in Season 4. Spearheading the BMW i fleet is the new BMW i8 Coupé, modified with BMW M components (combined fuel consumption: 1.9 l/100 km; combined energy consumption 14.0 kWh/100 km; combined CO2 emissions: 42 g/km)*. As well as the BMW i8 Coupé, the BMW i fleet for the ABB Formula E Championship also includes the new BMW i3s (combined fuel consumption: 0.0 l/100 km; combined energy consumption: 14.3 kWh; combined CO2 emissions: 0 g/km)* as “Medical Car” and “Race Control Car”, and the BMW X5 xDrive40e (combined fuel consumption: 3.4 – 3.3 l/100 km; combined energy consumption: 15.4 to 15.3 kWh/100 km; combined CO2 emissions: 78 – 77 g/km)* in its role as “Rescue Car”.

Media Contact.

BMW Sports Communications

Jörg Kottmeier

Phone: +49 (0)170 – 566 6112

E-mail: joerg.kottmeier@bmw.de

Matthias Schepke

Phone: +49 (0)151 – 601 90450

Email: matthias.schepke@bmw.de

Media Website.

<http://www.press.bmwgroup.com/global>

BMW Motorsport on the web.

Website: www.bmw-motorsport.com

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* The fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions figures shown were determined according to the European Regulation (EC) 715/2007 in the version applicable at the time of type approval. The figures refer to a vehicle with basic configuration in Germany and the range shown considers the different size of the selected wheels and tires.

The CO₂ efficiency specifications are determined according to Directive 1999/94/EC and the Pkw-EnVKV, and based (for classification) on the fuel consumption and CO₂ values as per the NEDC cycle.

Further information on official fuel consumption figures and specific CO₂ emission values of new passenger cars is included in the following guideline: "Leitfaden über Kraftstoffverbrauch, die CO₂-Emissionen und den Stromverbrauch neuer Personenkraftwagen" (Guideline for fuel consumption, CO₂ emissions and electric power consumption of new passenger cars), which can be obtained free of charge from all dealerships and at <https://www.dat.de/en/offers/publications/guideline-for-fuel-consumption.html>.