

THE 2011 FIA EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CUP RETURNS TO THE SALZBURGRING

The 2011 FIA European Touring Car Cup comes back to the Salzburgring for the third time, after it visited the Austrian track in 2008 and 2010.

The Euro Cup reverts to its original format, becoming again a single event after having been held over three race meetings last year.

SHORT STORY OF THE EUROPEAN CUP

The FIA European Touring Car Cup is reserved for cars complying with the FIA Super 2000, Super Production and Super 1600 technical regulations. Drivers' titles are awarded for each of the three categories.

The first event, held in Valelunga, Italy, on 16th October 2005 was won by Richard Göransson from Sweden in a BMW 320i (S2000) and Lorenzo Falessi from Italy in an Alfa Romeo 147 (SP).

The second event took place in Estoril, Portugal, on 22nd October 2006 and saw victories for Ryan Sharp from Scotland in a SEAT León (S2000) and Alexander Lvov from Russia in a Honda Civic (SP).

The third event, hosted by the Italian Adria Raceway, on 28th October 2007, Denmark's Michel Nykjær (SEAT León) and Russia's Aleksey Basov (Honda Civic) claimed the S2000 and SP titles respectively.

Nykjær (Chevrolet Lacetti) encored his S2000 victory at the Austrian Salzburgring, on 29th October 2008. Italian Fabio Fabiani (BMW 320i) was sacred champion in SP. S1600 cars made their first appearance and the title went to Ralf Martin from Germany in a Ford Fiesta ST.

In 2009 the ETCC visited Braga's Circuito Vasco Samerio on October 25th. In rainy race conditions, James Thompson (Honda Accord) won the S2000 Cup, while Marcis Birken (Honda Civic) and Carsten Seifert (Ford Fiesta) were crowned in the SP and S1600 classes respectively.

Last year Braga, Salzburgring and Franciacorta (Italy) hosted the three events that formed the 2010 series. James Thompson and his Hartmann Racing Honda Accord claimed their second consecutive S2000 title, and so did Carsten Seifert in S1600 with the NK Racing Team Ford Fiesta. The Super Production category was won by Serbian driver Vojislav Lekić's Honda Civic.

NATIONS CUP AWARDED FOR THE SIXTH TIME

In addition to the three FIA European Touring Car Cups for Super 2000, Super Production and Super 1600 drivers, the FIA Touring Car Nations Cup will be awarded for the sixth time. This title goes to the National Sporting Authority (ASN) whose drivers have scored the highest number of points in the two races.

The best two cars entered by competitors belonging to the same ASN will be taken into consideration for the Nations Cup's classification.

The Nations Cup was awarded to the British Motor Sports Association in 2006 and 2009, and to the Dansk Automobil Sports Union in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

ONE QUALIFYING AND TWO 50-KM RACES

The format of the FIA European Touring Car Cup is based on the FIA World Touring Car Championship's.

After three one-hour private test sessions on Friday, the actual event will start on Saturday with one 30-minute practice and one 30-minute qualifying session.

On Sunday two back-to-back 50-km races (17 laps) will take place, featuring a rolling start and a standing start respectively.

The grid for the second race will be determined by the results of the first race, with the first eight drivers classified placed in reverse order.

YOKOHAMA AWARDS 100,000-EURO PRIZE MONEY

At each of the three events, Yokohama, sole supplier of the control tyres for the FIA European Touring Car Cup, will award the competitors prize money of 100,000 euros.

Prize money will be split among the three categories: € 70,000 to Super 2000, € 20,000 to Super 1600 and € 10,000 to Super Production.