

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

DTM season kicks off on new wheels

As of this season, ATS will be the official wheels supplier for DTM

From the 2017 season, all DTM touring cars, regardless of brand, will take their place on the starting line with the new ATS forged wheel. ATS, a UNIWHEELS AG brand, will thus become the industry partner for the series, as well as the official and exclusive DTM wheels supplier, producing aluminium forged wheels in sizes 12x18 for the front axle and 13x18 for the rear axle that are completely identical for all DTM cars of all three manufacturers. These new aluminium forged wheels are produced using a high-strength special alloy, meeting the extreme demands placed on strength and rigidity with their aesthetically sophisticated design that has also been optimised using computer-aided simulations. Various quality controls are implemented during an extremely complex manufacturing process to ensure that all wheels are produced within a very close weight tolerance just above the limit for the specified minimum weight, guaranteeing that all cars are equally competitive. The minimum weight for the front axle is 9.5 kilograms per wheel and 10 kilograms per wheel for the rear axle. The wheels are varnished in a semi-matt black colour.

Dr. Thomas Buchholz, chairman of UNIWHEELS AG: "We are extremely proud of the fact that we are able to be exclusive suppliers for both DTM and Formula 3 as of the 2017 season. Getting involved in motorsport gives us an excellent opportunity to demonstrate the technical expertise of ATS and the entire UNIWHEELS group, as well as showcase our brand in an optimal environment."

Gerhard Berger, CEO of ITR, also expresses his delight about the new partnership: “With the UNIWHEELS group and their ATS brand, we’re delight to have a partner who has extensive technical expertise, as well as many years’ worth of experience in motorsport and in developing wheels for international automotive manufacturers. Berger has been aware of ATS for many years, having competed in his first Formula 1 race in an ATS car in 1984 – the start of his Formula 1 career.

The new wheel rims were developed exclusively by ATS for DTM and will be manufactured solely in their forging plant in Fußgönheim. This will therefore ensure the highest levels of quality and the quickest reaction times. Dr. Wolfgang Hiller, COO of UNIWHEELS AG: “Besides wheels for motorsport, we also produce numerous prototypes for the international automotive industry in our wheel forging plant, located in Fußgönheim. We focus on developing new lightweight designs to save carbon dioxide and optimise performance.”

They incorporated all their expertise into their wheel design process, which lasted over a year and involved over 20 employees from various divisions within the group. During this process, the wheels were subject to complex short and long-term tests in the UNIWHEELS development centre in Lüdenscheid, before also being tested by the manufacturer. One test involved simulating over a million load changes, as is stipulated by requirements of the three manufacturers competing in DTM, Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz.

All manufacturers receive a minimum of 20 wheelsets per car to be used in the coming season. According to regulations, it is mandatory/specified to use ATS wheels. These regulations have been created by DMSB, Germany’s motor racing governing body, in conjunction with ITR (International Touring Car Racing Association).



UNI WHEELS
UNITED WHEELS GROUP



Photos: The new DTM wheel rim by ATS for the 2017 season



About ATS:

ATS is the premium brand of the UNIWHEELS group and has been one of the prominent alloy wheel brands for motorcars and SUVs in Europe for decades. ATS established its position within the racing field by being active in Formula 1 in the 70s and 80s and still registers numerous successes in Formula and touring car racing sports to this day. By employing chic design with a technical focus on optimising performance, ATS has played an important role in the European accessory market for over 40 years. Besides their wide range of products with countless applications in the domain of economy, numerous forged and flow-formed wheels round off their product portfolio.

About UNIWHEELS:

The UNIWHEELS Group is one of the leading manufacturers of aluminum wheels for cars in Europe and is one of the few technology leaders worldwide in the aluminum wheel industry. UNIWHEELS is the third largest European supplier of OEM wheels for the automotive industry as well as the market-leading manufacturer of alloy wheels for the accessories market (AM) in Europe. Well-known Group brands include ATS, RIAL, ALUTEC and ANZIO. The Group currently has four production plants, three of which are in Poland (Stalowa Wola) and one in Germany (Werdohl).

UNIWHEELS sees itself as one of the leading partners of the automotive industry for the optimum reduction of CO₂ emissions by reducing the weight of alloy wheels. As well as weight-optimized construction methods, the following procedures are primarily used: Flow Forming, Lightforming, undercutting and forging.

In 2016 UNIWHEELS Group had with a sales volume of 8.8 million wheels EUR 464.1 million of revenues and an EBITDA of EUR 70.2 million. 2,918 employees worked for the Group.



For more information please contact:

Tobias Eisele

Head of Group Marketing & E-Commerce

Email: t.eisele@de.uniwheels.com

UNI WHEELS AG
Gustav-Kirchhoff-Str. 10
67098 Bad Dürkheim
Deutschland

