



PRESS RELEASE

22-03-2013

LE MANS 24 HOURS: THE N°36 ALPINE BREAKS COVER...

Following the recent announcement (on March 8) of its entry for both the 2013 Le Mans 24 Hours and this year's European Le Mans Series (ELMS), Signatech-Alpine today presented the endurance racing prototype that will defend Alpine's colours this season at L'Atelier Renault in Paris, France.

- **Alpine's return to endurance racing after an absence of 35 years plays a part in the brand's re-emergence ahead of the launch of the first car to be designed by Société des Automobiles Alpine-Caterham, planned for 2016.**
- **Nelson Panciatici and Pierre Ragues, the two drivers who will share the car at every round of the ELMS, will be joined for the Le Mans 24 Hours by Tristan Gommendy.**
- **The N°36 Alpine will make its first track appearance at the official ELMS test days at Paul Ricard, France, on March 26-27.**

It was a little less than 35 years ago that the 1978 Le Mans 24 Hours-winning Alpine-Renault A442B paraded down the Champs-Élysées in front of a cheering crowd who turned out to show their appreciation for the car's success in the hands of Jean-Pierre Jaussaud and Didier Pironi. Today, the Parisian public and visitors to the French capital have another chance to discover the A442B, since it is one of the centrepieces of the 'No Limit!' exhibition which is currently running at L'Atelier Renault (until April 7).

The Champs Élysees premises consequently provided the ideal backdrop for the revelation of the new Alpine prototype which is poised to compete in this year's endurance racing season. Société des Automobiles Alpine-Caterham's CEO Bernard Ollivier and Philippe Sinault, Signatech-Alpine Team Principal, lifted the veil to reveal a striking blue and orange livery which recalls the colours sported by the Alpines which raced at Le Mans some five decades ago.

"Since the announcement of Alpine's revival on November 5 last year, we have been moving forward step by step," said Bernard Ollivier. *"The unveiling of this splendid car marks the beginning of another phase. It will turn a wheel for the first time very soon, and its*

maiden race will follow shortly afterwards. The news of our endurance racing programme received a very positive welcome, not only from diehard Alpine enthusiasts, but also from the world of motor racing in general. We can hardly wait to see our brand's colours in action!"

"I am extremely proud to be representing Alpine, but it is an honour which goes hand in hand with significant responsibilities," noted Philippe Sinault. "The next step is to take the car to Paul Ricard where our work will begin in earnest. Our aim is to be competitive in endurance racing's highly competitive LMP2 class. We will use the different test sessions that are planned, as well as the first two rounds of the ELMS, to prepare for June's Le Mans 24 Hours which is clearly the focal point of the season."

The drivers who have been named to share the N°36 Alpine-Renault form a blend of experience and youth, and all three are keen to get behind its wheel. Nelson Panciatici, 24, and Pierre Ragues, 29, who were confirmed at the time of the programme's original announcement, will be joined for the Le Mans 24 Hours by 34-year old Tristan Gommendy. The three Frenchmen all rose up through the ranks of Renault's single-seater formulae and, between them, total 10 previous participations in the world's most famous motor race. Another French youngster, Paul-Loup Chatin, has been chosen as the car's reserve driver.

N°36 Alpine-Nissan – technical data

Chassis	Alpine
Engine	Nissan V8 (type VK45)
Maximum power	500hp
Fuel and lubricants	Total
Transmission	Six-speed sequential X-Trac gearbox
Steering	Hydraulic, power steering
Brakes	Brembo carbon brakes
Tyres	Michelin
Lenght	4,610mm
Wheelbase	2,870mm
Width	1,995mm
Weight	900kg
Top speed	330kph

Nelson Panciatici

Born	Reims, France, on September 26, 1988 (age: 24)
Single-seater debut	2005 (Formula Renault 2.0)
Endurance racing debut	2012

Record :

- 2012 : FIA World Endurance Championship (Signatech-Nissan), fastest race lap at Fuji 10th overall and 4th in LMP2 at Le Mans / podium finish at Silverstone
- 2011 : FR3.5/WSR (KMP Racing)
- 2010 : FR3/WSR (Junior Lotus Racing)
- 2009 : One of the youngest drivers in GP2 Superleague Formula (Epsilon)
- 2008 : 2nd, Spanish F3 Championship
- 2005 : Formula Renault 2.0 debut

Pierre Ragues

Born	Caen, France, on January 10, 1984 (age: 29)
Single-seater debut	2003 (Formule Renault Campus)
Endurance racing debut	2006

Record :

- **2012** : World Endurance Championship (Signatech-Nissan LMP2), 4th in class at Le Mans
3rd in class at Silverstone / 5th in class at Bahrain
- **2011** : 5th (LMP1), Intercontinental Le Mans Cup
- **2010** : Le Mans Series and Le Mans 24 Hours (Signature Plus, LMP1)
- **2009** : 7th, Le Mans Series (Signature Plus)
- **2008** : Le Mans Series (Groupe Pescarolo Automobiles / Team Saulnier Racing)
Le Mans 24 Hours (Groupe Pescarolo Automobiles / Team Saulnier Racing)
- **2007** : International Formula Master (Euronova)
- **2006** : Le Mans Series (Paul Belmondo Racing), LMP2
Le Mans 24 Hours debut
- **2005** : FR 2.0 (Epsilon), French Championship and WSR
- **2004** : FR 2.0 (SG Formula)
- **2003** : 2nd, French Formula Campus Renault Elf Championship

Tristan Gommendy

Born	Chesnay, France, on January 4, 1979 (age: 34)
Singles-eater debut	1999 (Formule Renault)
Endurance racing debut	2003

Record:

- **2011-2012:** Development driver (Ligier)
- **2008-2012:** Superleague Formula (Team France-Olympique Lyonnais, Girondins de Bordeaux, FC Porto, Galatasaray), 5 wins, 11 podiums
- **2010:** Development driver (Audi Team Joest, Audi R15+)
- **2007:** Champcar World Series (PKV Racing), 1 pole position, 5 top-five finishes, 2 fastest race laps and 6 top-10 finishes
- **2006:** GP2 Series (Team Is Sport), 5 races, 4 top-five finishes and 1 fastest race lap
- **2005:** 4th, World Series by Renault FR 3.5 (KTR), 2 wins, 5 podiums
Le Mans 24 Hours (WR)
- **2004:** World Series by Nissan (Team Saulnier Racing), 5 pole positions, 6 podiums
- **2003:** Formula Renault V6 (Signature), 6 wins, 5 podiums, 6 fastest race laps
Le Mans 24 Hours (factory driver for Dome LMP1 / Racing for Holland), 8th in qualifying
- **2002:** 1st, French Formula 3 Championship (ASM), 5 wins, 10 podiums,
record number of pole positions in French championship (10), 1st in Macau F3 GP
- **2001:** Formula 3 (ASM), 3 pole positions, 4 podiums
- **1999:** 4th, French Formula Renault Championship (Team Mygale), 'Rookie' of the Year

SIGNATECH

Signatech's expertise is founded on 22 years of experience in top-flight single-seater racing, and four years in world class endurance racing. It has emerged as one of international motor racing's leading players, with the following results to its name:

- 76 victories
- 47 pole positions
- 472 podium finishes
- 48 fastest race laps
- 15 titles

Record

- Fastest race lap (LMP2), 2012 6 Hours of Fuji
- 2nd (LMP2), 2012 6 Hours of Bahrain
- 3rd (LMP2), 2012 6 Hours of Silverstone
- 10th overall, 2012 Le Mans 24 Hours (4th in LMP2)
- 2nd (LMP2), 2011 Le Mans 24 Hours
- 1st (LMP2), 2011 ILMC
- 2nd, 2010 LMS
- 2nd, 2011 F3 Euro Series
- 2nd, 2011 LMS
- 1st, 2010 F3 Euro Series
- 1st, F3 World Cup (2003, 2009 and 2010)
- 1st, FIA European F3 Cup (1999, 2000, 2002 and 2003)
- 1st, Formula Renault V6 Europe (2003)

SIGNATECH in brief:

- Two race team workshops totalling 2,500 sq. metres
- Total Group turnover: €10,000,000
- A staff of 40
- Engineering office (Solidworks prototyping platform)
- Composites workshop
- Machine shop
- Ellip6 simulator for driver training and technical programme development (six-axle full motion driving simulator with three-screen panoramic display).

2013 calendar

March 26-27:	Official ELMS test, Paul Ricard, France
April 13:	ELMS (round 1), Silverstone, GB
May 18:	ELMS (round 2), Imola, Italy
June 9:	Pre-Le Mans 24 Hours test, Le Mans, France
June 23:	2013 Le Mans 24 Hours, Le Mans, France
July 20:	ELMS (round 3), Red Bull Ring, Austria
September 14:	ELMS (round 4), Hungaroring, Hungary
September 28:	ELMS (found 5), Paul Ricard, France

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