25th March 2013

**Intensive Motorsports Action for YOKOHAMA**

The Japanese tyre manufacturer YOKOHAMA enjoyed an exciting weekend of Motorsports. At Monza, the historical race track in Italy, the new season of the FIA WTCC got underway with YOKOHAMA once again being the exclusive tyre partner of the now well established World Touring Car Championship.

The return of LADA to the competition and the incorporation of Honda for 2013 will undoubtedly see some dynamic encounters at what promises to be an exciting Championship. Rob Huff will try hard to defend his title and former Champion Yvan Muller will again be a strong title contender. The experienced Gabrielle Tarquini, now driving for Honda and two well known comebacks to WTCC, such as Fredy Barth and Michel Nykjaer will compete together with young up and coming talents such as Pepe Oriola, James Nash and Alex Macdowall among others, to provide excitement to the forthcoming races.

At Monza it was Muller who provided the first victories to the RML team on a Chevrolet Cruze car, in what was a dream start to his title aspirations. As last year, he dominated the qualifiers and indeed both races from beginning to end. His new team mate, Tom Chilton also performed exceedingly well under the trying wet circumstances and managed a second place in race 1 and a fifth in race 2, for a current overall second place in the table.

Veteran Tarquini on home soil managed to finish third in race 2 and fourth on race 1 obtaining valuable points and is currently third in the general classification.

Meanwhile the YOKOHAMA trophy for “independent’ drivers will award 20,000 Euros prize money at each of the twenty-four races, which represents 480,000 Euros over the season.

YOKOHAMA Europe representatives including its President Masataka Yamaishi attended the season opener and had the opportunity to meet and greet Distributors, Business Partners and guests from YOKOHAMA Italy, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia at its purposely built hospitality facility.

The Championship will resume at Marrakech, Morocco on 7th April for rounds 3 & 4.