**16th May 2013**

**YOKOHAMA supports Aston Martin's ground-breaking Nürburgring 24 Hour race entry**

**Japanese high performance and motorsport tyre brand YOKOHAMA will again partner with the in-house Aston Martin Test Centre team as it competes in this weekend's Nürburgring 24 Hour race. The British marque will be breaking new ground as one of the four Aston Martin sports cars in action is powered by a radical new Hybrid Hydrogen engine, making it the first Hybrid Hydrogen-powered car to compete in an international event.**

YOKOHAMA has been the tyre supplier of the Aston Martin Test Centre team at the Nürburgring since 2006, fitted to the virtually showroom-specification cars run by the team at the event. These cars typically feature safety modifications only including roll cages, built-in fire suppression systems and uprated brakes for longevity and are designed to prove the durability and performance of the iconic British marque.

This year, the team's two cars are fitted with YOKOHAMA ADVAN A005 dry and A006 wet racing tyres.

The first is an Aston Martin V12 Vantage and will be proving future technology for the brand. This car will be driven by British journalist and racer Richard Meaden, team regular Peter Cate, Oliver Mathai and Nürburgring specialist, Andreas Gulden.

The second car is the mould-breaking Hybrid Hydrogen Rapide S which is, as the name suggests, a hybrid-engined version of the new four-door Aston Martin, using an engine capable of using pure Hydrogen, pure gasoline or a combination of both. When running on pure hydrogen, it generates zero CO2 emissions and virtually nothing but water as exhaust by-products.

Developed in association with Alset Global, the Hydrogen N24 race programme is designed to celebrate Aston Martin's centenary in 2013 as well as proving out new technology in arguably the harshest environment possible - 24 hours of racing at the 'Green Hell', the nickname for the Nordschleife circuit in the foothills of the Eiffel Mountains.

The Hybrid Hydrogen Rapide S will be driven by Aston Martin CEO Dr Ulrich Bez, head of Aston Martin's Development Centre Wolfgang Schuhbauer, Japanese racer and journalist Shinichi Katsura and Hong Kong-based journalist, Matthew Marsh.

Commenting, Head of Motorsport at YOKOHAMA HPT Ltd, Mark Evans, said; "I am delighted that YOKOHAMA is partnering with the Aston Martin team again this year for the Nürburgring 24 Hours. It is a fantastic endorsement for YOKOHAMA products that the team has chosen us to work with them again this year.

"To be working on such an innovative project as the Hybrid Hydrogen Rapide S is also extremely exciting. The car has already completed a full lap of the circuit on pure Hydrogen, ensuring Aston Martin's entry into the record books, and we are very excited to see how the car and new technology performs in the race itself.

"We know that the ADVAN A005s and A006s work very well with the Aston Martin sports cars - they have easily run double and even triple stints on one set of tyres in the past - and we will have our technical team at the event."

In a change from previous years the event begins on Sunday 19 May and ends on Monday 20 May, taking advantage of the bank holiday in Germany. Saturday of the race weekend will feature the 40-car qualifying shoot-out introduced in 2012, with more than 150 cars entered for the legendary race.