24th May 2013

**YOKOHAMA celebrates with Aston Martin at Nürburgring 24hour race**

**The Japanese high performance and motorsport tyre brand YOKOHAMA celebrated a successful weekend of racing with Aston Martin over the course of this year's Nürburgring 24 hour race, despite facing difficult weather and conditions. Both of the YOKOHAMA-shod Aston Martin Test Centre cars finished the race, with the V12 Vantage claiming fifth in class and the ground-breaking Hybrid Hydrogen Rapide S also recording a finish on its motorsport debut.**

Weather is always a major factor on the infamous Nordschleife circuit and this year, heavy rain and fog meant the race was red-flagged for several hours until conditions improved enough for the competition to resume, at 8am on Monday 20 May.

Both Aston Martin Test Centre cars had the choice of either the slick ADVAN A005 tyre or the full wet ADVAN A006, with a third option of an A005 with an intermediate tread cut by hand on site by YOKOHAMA engineers.

The Hybrid Hydrogen Rapide S, piloted 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 became the first race car to complete a zero CO2 emission lap of the famous circuit in the race, with each driver completing several laps powered solely by hydrogen technology.

The hydrogen-only laps were completed using the ADVAN A005 slick tyre, with the Hybrid Hydrogen Rapide S further demonstrating YOKOHAMA's commitment to delivering performance and durability by completing one more stint than anticipated before needing to be changed.

The near road-specification V12 Vantage, piloted by British journalist and racer Richard Meaden, team regulars Peter Cate, Oliver Mathai and Nürburgring specialist, Andreas Gulden, completed the event fifth in class. Employing a mix of all three available options, it put in consistently quick laps thanks in part to the durability and consistency of the YOKOHAMA tyres.

Throughout the course of the event both cars were faced with heavy rain, which meant the use of the ADVAN A006 wet tyre. Again, this performed well, handling the power of the V12 Vantage and the pace of the Hybrid Hydrogen Rapide S with ease.

YOKOHAMA engineers were also called-on to hand-cut the ADVAN A005 tyre into an intermediate pattern once sections of the circuit began to dry. Used during previous events for Aston Martin, this option provided the perfect balance of grip and durability during the ever-changing weather conditions around the circuit.

Commenting, Head of Motorsport at YOKOHAMA HPT Ltd, Mark Evans, said: "This was one of the toughest Nürburgring 24 hour races we have faced and I am delighted that both of the Aston Martin Test Centre cars recorded a finish. To have been part of Aston Martin's incredible achievement, running hydrogen-only laps for each driver, is a superb feeling and one that everyone involved should be proud of.

"I am also pleased that we were able to react to the changing conditions and provide the team with not only the slick and wet tyres but also, a hand-cut intermediate option that proved to be very effective."