



By appointment
to HM The Queen
motor car manufacturers
Bentley Motors Limited
Crewe Cheshire



By appointment
to HRH The Prince of Wales
motor car manufacturers
Bentley Motors Limited
Crewe Cheshire



BENTLEY

Press Information

BENTLEY TAKES 24 HOURS OF SPA PODIUM AND BUILDS CHAMPIONSHIP LEADS

- ♦ **Bentley finishes in second place at the 24 Hours of Spa**
- ♦ **Bentley Team M-Sport and the drivers of car #8 extend lead in the Blancpain GT Series Endurance Cup titles**
- ♦ **Bentley Boy Vincent Abril now leads the Blancpain GT Series Driver's championship**
- ♦ **Gap to overall Blancpain GT Series Teams leader down to six points**
- ♦ **Bentley celebrates 500th race start for the Continental GT3**

(30 July 2017, Francorchamps, Belgium) – Bentley Motorsport has finished in second place in the largest GT3 race in the world, the 24 Hours of Spa, with its #8 Continental GT3 and drivers Maxime Soulet (BE), Andy Soucek (ES) and Vince Abril (MC).

Mike Sayer

Product and Motorsport
Communications Manager
mike.sayer@bentley.co.uk
+44(0)7507 846782

Rebecca Jones

Motorsport Communications
Officer
rebecca@viprmedia.com
+44(0)7866 701161

Bentley Motors Ltd

Pyms Lane
Crewe
CW1 3PL

www.bentleymedia.com
communications@bentley.co.uk
@BentleyComms

With a carefully pre-determined race strategy, the Bentley Team M-Sport crew ran out-of-sync with many of the leading GT3 competitors for most of the race but the long-term gains came to fruition in the final stages of the 24-hour endurance event.

In the final hour of the race, Soulet emerged from the pits just 10 seconds behind the #25 Audi that soon became race leader. Despite pushing hard to the end, the #8 car couldn't close the gap and the team



By appointment
to HM The Queen
motor car manufacturers
Bentley Motors Limited
Crewe Cheshire



By appointment
to HRH The Prince of Wales
motor car manufacturers
Bentley Motors Limited
Crewe Cheshire



BENTLEY

Press Information

celebrated second place in one of the toughest motorsport events in the world after 546 laps and more than 3,800 km of flat-out racing.

The points collected from strong positions at the six, 12 and 24 hour marks mean Bentley Team M-Sport retains the Blancpain GT Series Endurance Cup lead with only one other competitor able to challenge for the title at the final round in Barcelona at the end of the season. The team has also closed the gap to the overall Blancpain GT Series Teams title to just six points, with three rounds remaining including Barcelona.

The second place finish also secures Soucek, Soulet and Abril's position at the top of the Endurance Cup Drivers championship and projects Abril to overall Blancpain GT Series Drivers championship leader.

"To have just a few seconds separate first from second after 24 hours of racing shows what a closely-fought championship Blancpain GT Series is," commented Bentley's Director of Motorsport Brian Gush. "Taking a podium place in such a challenging event is the reward for a dedicated effort by the entire team. We leave Spa leading three separate Blancpain championship titles, and our attention now turns to delivering the same focused preparation for the last three rounds of the championship.

Mike Sayer

Product and Motorsport
Communications Manager
mike.sayer@bentley.co.uk
+44(0)7507 846782

Rebecca Jones

Motorsport Communications
Officer
rebecca@viprmedia.com
+44(0)7866 701161

Bentley Motors Ltd

Pyms Lane
Crewe
CW1 3PL

www.bentleymedia.com
communications@bentley.co.uk
@BentleyComms

"I couldn't have asked for more from the drivers and pit crew who fought so hard to get us onto the podium today. Many people questioned our strategy early on in the race but we knew the race would come to us in



By appointment
to HM The Queen
motor car manufacturers
Bentley Motors Limited
Crewe Cheshire



By appointment
to HRH The Prince of Wales
motor car manufacturers
Bentley Motors Limited
Crewe Cheshire



BENTLEY

Press Information

the later stages. These races are no longer traditional endurance events – they're sprints that last 24 hours – and in its 500th race start we have shown the pace and reliability of the Continental GT3 once again."

The next round of the Blancpain GT Series takes place at the Hungaroring near Budapest in Hungary on 25-27 August.

-ENDS-

Driver Quotes

Andy Soucek: "Bentley Team M-Sport did a great job and what we have achieved today feels like a win. Last year I was in tears because we missed the podium, and this year we fought so hard for it and Max's final stint was incredible. Such a close finish shows how tight this race is."

Vince Abril: "I really wanted to get a good result in Spa because it's the most important race in the season. Pace here isn't enough, you have to have a great strategy too, and to come here and get through the night and finish on the podium is a real achievement. These guys drove fabulously today."

Max Soulet: "I was pushing so hard in the last stint. Towards the end I had nothing left to give and my tyres were losing grip, so I decided not to take any risks and settle for second. It really was the toughest race we've ever done, but everyone was crying tears of joy at the end. It's fantastic."

Mike Sayer

Product and Motorsport
Communications Manager
mike.sayer@bentley.co.uk
+44(0)7507 846782

Rebecca Jones

Motorsport Communications
Officer
rebecca@viprmedia.com
+44(0)7866 701161

Bentley Motors Ltd

Pyms Lane
Crewe
CW1 3PL

www.bentleymedia.com
communications@bentley.co.uk
@BentleyComms

Notes to editors

- Bentley Motorsport is based at the Bentley Motors headquarters in Crewe. From there, the operation runs Bentley Team M-Sport, and oversees three Works-supported teams around the world.
- The Continental GT3 is built by the Bentley motorsport team in conjunction with M-Sport. The Bentley GT3 team is led by Bentley Director of Motorsport, Brian Gush supported by M-Sport's Chief Engineer, Christian Loriaux.
- Bentley Motors' headquarters in Crewe is home to all of its operations including design, R&D, engineering and production of the company's four model lines,



By appointment
to HM The Queen
motor car manufacturers
Bentley Motors Limited
Crewe Cheshire



By appointment
to HRH The Prince of Wales
motor car manufacturers
Bentley Motors Limited
Crewe Cheshire



BENTLEY

Press Information

Continental, Bentayga, Flying Spur and Mulsanne. The combination of fine craftsmanship, using skills that have been handed down through generations, alongside engineering expertise and cutting-edge technology is unique to UK luxury car brands.

Mike Sayer

Product and Motorsport
Communications Manager
mike.sayer@bentley.co.uk
+44(0)7507 846782

Rebecca Jones

Motorsport Communications
Officer
rebecca@viprmedia.com
+44(0)7866 701161

Bentley Motors Ltd

Pyms Lane
Crewe
CW1 3PL

www.bentleymedia.com
communications@bentley.co.uk
@BentleyComms