

ALMS launches Green Challenge

Competition rewards environment-friendly racecars



The American Le Mans Series has underscored its role as a worldwide leader in green racing with the launch of the first-ever Green Challenge, an on-track competition rewarding racecars that go the farthest, the fastest with the smallest environmental footprint for the energy used.

"With this new program, the ALMS has really set the bar for all racing series in terms of green initiatives," said Adrian Fernandez who, with teammate Luis Diaz, drives the No. 15 Lowe's Acura ARX LMP2 prototype in Lowe's Fernandez Racing's second year of ALMS competition. "Now more than ever before, alternative fuel solutions and environmental concerns are the focus. The ALMS provides a great development platform for manufacturers which, ultimately, benefits all of us."

The ALMS is the only racing series in the world where all cars race on three alternative "street legal" fuels: clean diesel, E10—the same fuel sold at your local gas station—and cellulosic E85, with a fourth alternative—a hybrid—in the works. Together with the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and SAE International, the ALMS unveiled the

Green Challenge at the North American International Auto Show in January.

The inaugural Green Challenge, an environmental race-within-a-race, will take place at the series' marquee event—the 10-hour/1,000-mile Petit Le Mans on Oct. 4 at Road Atlanta in Braselton, Ga. Open to all competitors, racecars will be measured on fuel efficiency, environmental impact and performance. Winners will be presented trophies by officials from the U.S. DOE, EPA and SAE International.

Each entrant will be awarded a green achievement score based on the amount of energy used, greenhouse gases emitted and petroleum displaced. Teams with the best greenhouse gas reduction based not only on performance and fuel efficiency but on the total greenhouse gas life cycle of the fuel type used will be awarded the lowest green achievement score and, in the Green Challenge, the lowest score wins.

Some of the finest engineering minds in the automotive and energy sector have combined to create a Green Challenge formula that is fair across all technologies, car makes, race classes and fuel options.

"Racing is the ultimate test track. If

clean efficient technologies can survive the extreme driving of the ALMS, then they can certainly work for the morning commute," said Margo T. Oge, Director of Transportation and Air Quality at the EPA. "The ALMS Green Challenge is a pioneering effort to help move green technology forward from the track to the street."

The 2009 Green Challenge Championship will be contested at all ALMS races. Unlike typical point allocations in racing, each team will start the season with the maximum number of points available for the scheduled races—250 points in 2008. When a team earns Green Challenge Championship points, these are deducted from the total with the lowest score at season's end resulting in the Green Challenge Championship for one prototype and one GT team.

"We have always claimed to be the most relevant racing series on the planet," said Scott Atherton, President/CEO of the ALMS. "Now we hope to play a role in helping to save that planet through working with manufacturers on innovative alternative fuel solutions and technologies.

"We are working with car companies on something that matters."

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— **Adrian Fernandez**
Co-Driver / Owner Lowe's Fernandez Racing
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