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**Formula
LE MANS** 



ORECA
the motorsport company

PRESS RELEASE

October 22, 2008

Green light for Formula Le Mans!

Since Formula Le Mans was launched at the 2008 Le Mans 24 Hours, the ACO and ORECA have continued working together to get the new championship, which will begin in 2009, up and running.

The Formula Le Mans Championship will consist of 12 rounds as follows: 5 meetings with 2 races as supporting events to the Le Mans Series on famous circuits like Barcelona (Spain), Spa (Belgium), Algarve (Portugal), Nürburgring (Germany) and Silverstone (Great Britain). **A special race will be held as a curtain raiser to the Le Mans 24 Hours.** The final one will take place on a circuit to be designated and will be a real endurance test - 4 hours racing to finish the year with a flourish!

Formula Le Mans will offer young drivers, gentlemen drivers and teams a unique opportunity to set up a Junior team and gear up for the cut and thrust of sports prototype racing. It will also provide them with an opportunity to show their skills to the major teams.

The ORECA design office has used its extensive competition experience to come up with a prototype based on the Courage-Oreca LMP2. The Le Mans Formula prototype "FLM09" will be powered by a 430 bhp engine; it will have a 6-speed sequential gearbox with the gearchange mounted on the steering column and carbon brakes so the racing is going to be fast and furious! **The first shakedown test is scheduled for mid-November and will be followed by the construction of 20 cars.**

Numerous teams have already expressed their interest in the new series, which will offer bonuses and prize money – **over 220 000 euros!** And there will be three exceptional prizes for the first three: an **LMP1 test for the winner**, a test in LMP2 for the runner-up and a test in GT2 for the third.

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