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Lotus Sport Cadena race team

Lotus Sport Cadena race team to be based at Hethel

The Lotus Sport Cadena race team (which will campaign two Lotus Sport Exige GT3 race cars after the signature of a two-year deal between Cadena and Lotus Sport, the performance arm of Lotus Cars) has announced that it is to be based at the Group Lotus headquarters in Hethel, Norfolk.

Situated in a newly-converted workshop facility, the team will have access to the established Lotus Sport expertise and infrastructure, in addition to the all important 2.25 mile Lotus Test Track. This will be used as part of the team's testing programme throughout its maiden season in this year's Avon Tyres British GT Championship, with an eye on entering the FIA GT3 European Championship in 2007.

Commenting on the move to the Hethel site, Paul Whight, Team Principal of the new racing outfit explains: "It is important that we work in close collaboration with Lotus Sport in what will be a development year for both the team and the Exige GT3. Although Lotus Sport Cadena isn't an official factory team, we have a very close relationship with Lotus and by basing ourselves at Hethel it reinforces our long term commitment to Lotus and to the Avon Tyres British GT Championship."

Lotus Sport Cadena will field four drivers to contest the 2006 British GT series, all having raced previously in Lotus racing cars. Cadena Lotus Sport Elise British GT driver Barrie Whight will once again be partnered by Gavan Kershaw, Principal Vehicle Dynamics Engineer for Lotus Engineering and driver of the Lotus Sport Elise in 2004 and the Mosler MT900R for the Cadena GTC team during the 2005 season. George Mackintosh, who claimed last year's Yokohama Mid-Engined Sportscar championship in a Lotus Elise, and Sam Blogg who took second place in the series also competing in a Lotus Elise, complete the team's second pairing.



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The opening round of the 2006 Avon Tyres British GT season takes place at Oulton Park on the 16th and 17th of April, with subsequent visits to high profile national circuits, Mondello Park in Ireland and Pau in France.

Ends.

Notes:

High-resolution images of the Lotus Sport Exige GT3 can be downloaded from the media centre of the official Group Lotus website at <http://www.grouplotus.com/mediactr>. The image library is for registered users only. Members of the press may register for the media centre.

About Lotus Sport: Lotus Sport is the performance arm of Lotus Cars Ltd and is located at the Norfolk Head Office next to the famous Hethel test track. The department designs and builds modified versions of the standard Lotus road cars with special emphasis on upgraded performance, improved ride and handling packages and race specific safety equipment. Individual performance parts to customise or upgrade a vehicle are available via Lotus Sport and its workshops can service, repair, restore or upgrade a standard road or competition Lotus. In addition, Lotus Sport provides a range of driving packages using the renowned Hethel test circuit, including driver training and corporate days, as well as offering enthusiasts a guided tour of the Lotus factory.

About Cadena: Cadena was created specifically for the 2005 British GT Series although it did enter certain FIA GT and Spanish GT rounds with mixed results using the Mosler GT2 chassis. The origins of the team stem from a ten year interest in motor sport by team principal Paul Whight who has raced historic Aston Martins, CanAm cars and then the last Group C Aston Martin chassis – AMR-1 – which ran at Le Mans in 1989 at the hands of David Leslie. Previously, Paul Whight was involved in the successful campaign of a Lotus Sport Elise in the Cup Class of the 2004 British GT Series.

About Group Lotus plc: The main operating subsidiary of Group Lotus plc is Lotus Cars Ltd., which has two operating divisions - Lotus Cars and Lotus Engineering:

Lotus Cars builds and commercialises Lotus sports cars, Elise and Exige; and manufactures the advanced composite front and rear crash structures for Aston Martin V12 Vanquish. Lotus Engineering provides comprehensive and versatile consultancy services to many of the world's OEMs and Tier 1 suppliers, offering a full engineering service from initial concept and project design through development to full production prototype build.

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