HEADLINE:  Honda debuts expanded World Touring Car Championship team at Geneva Motor Show

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND (MARCH 1, 2016) (GENEVA INTERNATIONAL MOTOR SHOW – ACCESS ALL)

1. HONDA CIVIC WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP (WTCC) RACE CAR

2. HONDA WTCC RACING DRIVERS ROB HUFF, NORBERT MICHELISZ AND TIAGO MONTEIRO TAKING SELFIES

3. SOUNDBITE (English) ROB HUFF, HONDA FACTORY WTCC DRIVER, SAYING:

"Well I think between the three of us we have a lot of experience in motorsport, and not just World Touring Cars, in the grand scheme of thing in motorsport. The three of us, no doubt, get along very well and this is really the first thing you need to look at to create a good team. Ultimately we are here as a team. We all individually want to beat each other. That's only natural but the first and foremost thing is to win the championships for Honda"

4. HONDA WTICC DRIVER NORBERT MICHELISZ CLIMBING INTO RACE CAR

5. SOUNDBITE (English) NORBERT MICHELISZ, HONDA FACTORY WTCC DRIVER:

"I felt that to be a world champion I needed to have factory support and I'm very grateful to Honda for giving me this opportunity. And I have to say for 2016 I'm quite confident to improve, to take the second step and fight with my team mates for race victories."

6. VARIOUS OF HONDA WTCC RACE CAR AND HONDA CIVIC ROAD CAR

7. SOUNDBITE  (English) TIAGO MONTEIRO, HONDA FACTORY WTCC DRIVER, SAYING:

“Well of course we use the same sort of design, we start with the same design, we start with the same chassis, this is mandatory thing we have to have. After that it goes into the motorsport area, everything lightweight and everything performance related."

8. VARIOUS OF HONDA WTCC RACE CAR

9. SOUNDBITE (English) ROB HUFF, HONDA FACTORY WTCC DRIVER, SAYING:

"For me I feel that it's very much the right place to be at the moment. Of course Citroen are very much dominating the championship. But I think this year we have made some good changes to the car. Obviously I don't know the old car so well but I've seen the updates that have come to the new car. I did one day in the old car testing and I've done two days in the new car testing and for sure the new car in every aspect is feeling much stronger."

10. SOUNDBITE  (English) TIAGO MONTEIRO, HONDA FACTORY WTCC DRIVER, SAYING:

"This is the year, the winter, where we made the biggest step forward. We have not compared yet face to face, so it's still a bit of a surprise and an unknown, a question mark, but we're quite confident that we're getting even closer."

11. HONDA WTCC DRIVERS STANDING AROUND RACE CAR

12. VARIOUS OF HONDA CIVIC WTCC RACE CAR

STORY: Honda has displayed the drivers and the car it will use for an expanded assault on the FIA World Touring Car Championship at the Geneva Motor Show (Tuesday March 1).

The team will field three Honda Civics in the championship, one more than previous years.

Former series winner Rob Huff and WTCC independents' champion Norbert Michelisz join Tiago Monteiro in the squad.

"The three of us, no doubt, get along very well and this is really the first thing you need to look at to create a good team," said Huff.

Hungarian driver Michelisz has used Honda machinery as an independent for the past three years.

He says the chance to drive for the factory Honda team fulfils an ambition first set when he joined the championship in 2008.

"I felt that to be a world champion I needed to have factory support and I'm very grateful to Honda for giving me this opportunity," he said.

The WTCC race car sat alongside of the road-going Civic R at Honda's display in Geneva.

Tiago Monteiro, whose career achievements include a podium finish in Formula One, said the cars share common DNA.

“We start with the same design, we start with the same chassis, this is mandatory thing we have to have," said the Portuguese driver. "After that it goes into the motorsport area, everything lightweight and everything performance related."

Honda last won the WTCC manufacturers' championship in 2013.

Since then the factory Citroen team has dominated, taking two championships, and a pair of drivers titles for Jose Maria Lopez.

British driver Huff was WTCC champion in 2012 and has taken 27 WTCC race wins.

He's hopeful the decision to switch to Honda from Lada will be justified.

"For me I feel that it's very much the right place to be at the moment," he said. "Of course Citroen are very much dominating the championship. But I think this year we have made some good changes to the car."

The 12 round 2016 WTCC season starts at the Paul Ricard circuit in France on April 3.