**Hyundai Motorsport reveals Thierry Neuville as 2014 driver**

* 25-year-old Belgian driver Thierry Neuville to be Hyundai Motorsport’s lead driver from 2014
* Multi-year deal underlines the ambition and commitment shared by both Neuville and Hyundai Motorsport

Alzenau, Germany

November 5, 2013 – Hyundai Motorsport has today reiterated its bold approach to the World Rally Championship by confirming rising WRC star Thierry Neuville as its lead driver starting from the 2014 season.

25-year-old Neuville, who is playing a key role in this year’s championship, has signed a multi-year agreement with Hyundai Motorsport that represents a serious commitment by both parties to build towards long-term success in the competitive WRC series.

*“I am thrilled to announce Thierry Neuville as the lead driver to our new WRC team,”* says Hyundai Motorsport Team Principal, Michel Nandan. *“Thierry is having a fantastic 2013 season and is proving himself to be one of the most exciting young drivers in WRC. His raw speed, driving skill and dynamic approach to rallying make him the ideal lead driver for Hyundai.”*

*“By signing a driver of Thierry’s talent, we can show that Hyundai’s WRC engagement is serious and focussed on long-term success after signing with the talented young driver, Thierry. It is also great recognition for the work that the* entire team has carried out in such a short time. *We both share similar values and objectives to win the championship in the long-term so we are proud to have Thierry in the team and as an ambassador for the Hyundai Motorsport brand.”*

Neuville, along with his co-driver Nicolas Gilsoul, will join Hyundai Motorsport behind the wheel of the new i20 WRC rally car in all 13 WRC events in 2014, beginning with the team’s debut at the Monte-Carlo Rally in January, signalling the start of the Belgian driver’s third consecutive WRC season.

Neuville’s experience will be invaluable to Hyundai Motorsport as the manufacturer begins its first fully-fledged championship WRC campaign with a team and car that have been developed from scratch, impressively in under a year. Neuville’s eye-catching performances this season have challenged the established competitors in WRC and have resulted in his reputation as one of the most exciting, young and dynamic drivers coming up through the WRC ranks.

*“I am pleased to be joining Hyundai Motorsport for the 2014 World Rally Championship,”* comments Thierry Neuville.*“I believe Hyundai Motorsport is the perfect fit for me because it is a young, emerging and ambitious manufacturer team with long-term objectives for championship success and I have long held aspirations of driving for a manufacturer team. I was impressed with the team’s facility, their approach to the rally programme and their clear potential. I hope my two years of experience in WRC will be beneficial to the team as we build a harmonious working partnership. We know we have a steep learning curve ahead of us in our first season but I am convinced we will have a successful future together.”*

In two competing seasons in the World Rally Championship, Neuville has contested a total of 32 rallies. He finished seventh in the 2012 championship, which acted as a prelude to a championship challenging 2013 season in which he has so far claimed four consecutive runner-up results (Italy, Finland, Germany and Australia), in addition to two third-place finishes (Mexico, Greece), leaving him second in the WRC standings with one rally left to run.

**Thierry Neuville**

Date of birth: 16 June 1988

Age: 25

Place of birth: Sankt Vith, Belgium

Nationality: Belgian

First WRC event: 2009, Rally Catalunya

Best WRC result: 2nd, 2013 Rally Italia Sardegna, Rally Finland, Rallye Deutschland and Rally Australia

WRC podiums: 6

WRC starts: 32 (after Rallye de España)

Co-driver: Nicolas Gilsoul

CV at a Glance

2008 Winner of the RACB Rally Contest, event organised by the Belgian Federation to discover a new young rally driver

2009 Winner of the Citroën Rally Trophy Belux

Winner of the ‘Summer Rally Match’ in France

2010 5 rounds in the 2010 FIA Junior World Rally Championship

Best result: 1st, Rally Bulgaria

Final classification: 7th overall, 2010 FIA Junior World Rally Championship for Drivers

6 rounds in the Intercontinental Rally Challenge

Best result: 3rd, Rally Ypres

Final classification: 9th overall, 2010 Intercontinental Rally Challenge

2011 11 rounds in the Intercontinental Rally Challenge

Best result: 1st, Tour de Corse and Rallye Sanremo

Winner of the Golden Stage at Cyprus Rally

Final classification: 5th overall, 2011 Intercontinental Rally Challenge

2012 13 rounds in the FIA World Rally Championship

Best result: 4th, Rallye de France

Final classification: 7th overall, 2012 FIA World Rally Championship for Drivers

2013 13 rounds in the FIA World Rally Championship

Best result: 2nd, Rally Italia Sardegna, Rally Finland, Rallye Deutschland and Rally Australia

Current classification: 2nd overall, 2013 FIA World Rally Championship for Drivers

**Nicolas Gilsoul**

Date of birth: 5 February 1982

Age: 31

Place of birth: Chênée, Belgium

Nationality: Belgian

First WRC event: 2007, Rallye Monte-Carlo

Best WRC result: 2nd, 2013 Rally Italia Sardegna, Rally Finland, Rallye Deutschland and Rally Australia

WRC podiums: 6

WRC starts: 27 (after Rallye de España)

Driver: Thierry Neuville

CV at a Glance

2000 Debut of co-driving career

2004 9 rounds in the FIA European Rally Championship

Driver: Bruno Thiry (BEL)

Best result: 2nd, Rali Vinho da Madeira and ELPA Rally

Final classification: 3rd overall, 2004 European Rally Championship

2006 First rally win: Rallye des Cardabelles Millau-Aveyron (France)

Driver: Bruno Thiry

2007

2008-2010

2011 First WRC event, Rallye Monte-Carlo

Driver: Luc Dewinter

Several rallies around Europe

Debut of the partnership with Thierry Neuville

11 rounds in the Intercontinental Rally Challenge

Best result: 1st, Tour de Corse and Rallye Sanremo

Winner of the Golden Stage at Cyprus Rally

Final classification: 5th overall, 2011 Intercontinental Rally Challenge

2012 13 rounds in the FIA World Rally Championship

Best result: 4th, Rallye de France

Final classification: 7th overall, 2012 FIA World Rally Championship for Drivers

2013 13 rounds in the FIA World Rally Championship

Best result: 2nd, Rally Italia Sardegna, Rally Finland, Rallye Deutschland and Rally Australia

Current classification: 2nd overall, 2013 FIA World Rally Championship for Drivers

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**About Hyundai Motor**

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Co. has grown into the Hyundai Motor Group, with more than two dozen auto-related subsidiaries and affiliates.  Hyundai Motor - which has seven manufacturing bases outside of South Korea including Brazil, China, the Czech Republic, India, Russia, Turkey and the U.S. - sold 4.4 million vehicles globally in 2012. Hyundai Motor, which employs over 90,000 worldwide, offers a full line-up of products including small to large passenger vehicles, SUVs and commercial vehicles.

Further information about Hyundai Motor and its products is available at <http://worldwide.hyundai.com> and [www.hyundaiglobalnews.com](http://www.hyundaiglobalnews.com).

**About Hyundai Motorsport GmbH**

Established on 19 December 2012, Hyundai Motorsport GmbH is responsible for Hyundai’s global motorsport activities and primarily for its recently announced World Rally Championship programme. Based in Alzenau on the outskirts of Frankfurt in Germany, the company is in the process of establishing Hyundai’s return to WRC with a bespoke team of skilled staff developing a WRC-specification i20.

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[www.hyundai-ms.com](mailto:media@hyundai-ms.com)

Username : HyundaiWRC

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For individual information please contact:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Thomas Villette** | **Nicoletta Russo** |
| Phone: +49-151 11354339 | Phone: +49-176 8476 2802 |
| [tvillette@hyundai-ms.com](mailto:tvillette@hyundai-ms.com) | [nrusso@hyundai-ms.com](mailto:nrusso@hyundai-ms.com) |