

Porsche Introduces its Innovative 963 at the 24 Hours of Daytona

Since it started producing cars almost 75 years ago, Porsche has been synonymous with automobile excellence.

Three years after releasing its inaugural car, Porsche launched its first race car in 1951. Since then, Porsche has been a dominant force in motorsports, claiming more than 30,000 race victories.

Continually innovating on its decades of experience, Porsche is ready to unveil its most revolutionary race car — the Porsche 963 — at the 24 Hours of Daytona, the season opener of the IMSA (International Motor Sports Association) WeatherTech SportsCar Championship at the Daytona International Speedway from Jan. 26-29, 2023.

Following the 24 Hours of Daytona, Porsche, which is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee (75 years) in 2023, will enter the race-born 963 in the Platinum Jubilee celebration of the legendary 24 Hours of Le Mans race. This leg of the World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) will take place from June 10-11.

The Porsche 963 is part of the all-new LMDh (Le Mans Daytona hybrid) prototype classification. As part of LMDh regulations, Porsche could choose from five manufacturers for its chassis and the company selected British racecar manufacturer Multimatic. The design of the 963 is reminiscent of Porsche's classic racecars, including the 956 and 962 from the 1980s. But the car's inner workings set new standards.

The Porsche 963 boasts a 4.6-liter, twin turbo, V8 680 HP engine with a seven-speed racing transmission. Weighing just over 2,200 pounds, the 963 is designed to run on renewable fuels, leading to reduced CO2 emissions.

The engine in the 963 is based on the Porsche 918 Spyder, a limited-edition super sports car produced from 2013-15 that can trace its roots to the RS Spyder, which achieved 13 victories for Team Penske between 2005 and 2008.

The four 963 Porsche being entered in the 24 Hours of Daytona and the 24 Hours of Le Mans will sport the company's standard racing colors — white, red and black. They will be raced by drivers from France — Kevin Estre, Mathieu Jaminet and Frédéric Makowiecki; Denmark — Michael Christensen; Germany — André Lotterer; Belgium — Laurens Vanthoor; Australia — Matt Campbell; Brazil — Felipe Nasr; the United Kingdom — Nick Tandy; and the United States — Dane Cameron.

Porsche has achieved unprecedented success at the 24 Hours of Daytona and the 24 Hours of Le Mans. The brand has won 22 titles at the 24 Hours of Daytona, most recently in 2010. It has also claimed 19 overall victories at Le Mans, the most of any manufacturer. This includes world championship titles in the manufacturers' classification from 2015-17. With the 963, Porsche is seeking its 23rd and 20th titles in these legendary endurance events.

To prepare the 963 for their upcoming races, Porsche partnered with the industry's best. This includes Roger Penske, the 1961 Sports Illustrated Race Car Driver of the Year, and his Team Penske motorsports team. Team Penske has produced more than 600 major race wins, over 670 pole positions and 43 championships across open-wheel, stock car and sports car racing competitions. Over the course of its 56-year history, the team has also earned 18 Indianapolis 500 victories, three Daytona 500 Championships, a Formula 1 win, victories in the 24 Hours of Daytona and the 12 Hours of Sebring, along with a win in Australia's legendary Bathurst 1000 race.

Porsche and Team Penske formed the Porsche Penske Motorsport team, which is preparing the four Porsche 963 at two locations — in Mooresville, N.C. for the IMSA series, including the 24 Hours of Daytona, and Mannheim, Germany for the WEC series, including the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

Other industry-leading partners include software specialist Ansys, international transportation services company Penske Automotive Group, tire manufacturer Michelin, ExxonMobil with its Mobil1 brand, luxury watchmaker TAG Heuer and fashion brand Hugo Boss, as well as Multimatic, Snap-on and Puma as technical partners.

In preparation for its breakout year, the Porsche 963 has completed more than 17,000 test miles. And, in a company tradition, following the races, Porsche will make the cars available to customers.

"Our new Porsche 963 will build on the great success of our legendary models," said Thomas Laudenbach, Head of Porsche Motorsport. "I'm sure we'll be in the best possible position to be able to win these exciting competitions."



Raceborn: Porsche 963 from Porsche Penske Motorsport

Porsche 963 Fast Facts

Single-seat prototype racing car for the LMDh (Le Mans Daytona hybrid) category that includes races for the World Endurance Championship (WEC) and the Grand Touring Prototype (GTP) at the International Motor Sports Association (IMSA)

Hybrid

Single specification hybrid system
MGU (motor generation unit) at the rear axle
Lithium-Ion ESS (energy storage system)

Engine

Engine type: Water cooled twin turbo V8
Displacement: 4.6 liters
Power: 680 HP
Fuel: Synthetic

Drive/Power Transmission

Clutch: CFK racing clutch
Transmission: Single specification sequential seven-speed race pneumatically actuated gearbox

Suspension

Front axle: Double wishbone suspension, pushrod-system, hydraulic power steering
Rear axle: Double wishbone suspension, pushrod-system

Brakes

Two independent brake circuits for front and rear axle
Brake by wire system

Body

Weight: 2,270 pounds
Wheelbase: 10.33 feet
Width: 6.56 feet
Height: 3.48 feet
Length: 16.7 feet

Porsche Penske Motorsport Partners

Ansys — software specialist
Penske Automotive — international transportation services company
Michelin — tire manufacturer
ExxonMobil — Mobil1 brand
TAG Heuer — luxury watch maker
Hugo Boss — fashion brand

Porsche Penske Motorsport Technical Partners

Multimatic
Snap-on
Puma

Porsche Penske Motorsport Drivers

Dane Cameron, United States
Matt Campbell, Australia
Michael Christensen, Denmark
Kevin Estre, France
Mathieu Jaminet, France
André Lotterer, Germany
Frédéric Makowiecki, France
Felipe Nasr, Brazil
Nick Tandy, United Kingdom
Laurens Vanthoor, Belgium