



## Press release

### SPYKER SQUADRON TESTS AT LE MANS

**Zeewolde, the Netherlands, 5 June 2006 -- This past weekend Spyker returned to Le Mans for the official 24 hours of the Le Mans test day. A large audience visited the track on Sunday to see their favourite teams make their final preparations for the world's most famous endurance sports car race.**

Spyker Squadron will take part in the 24 hours of Le Mans with two factory Spyker C8 Spyder GT2Rs. Number 85 is driven by Donny Crevels (NL), Peter Dumbreck (GB) and Tom Coronel (NL). Number 86 has Jeroen Bleekemolen (NL), Mike Hezemans (NL) and Jonny Kane (GB) behind the wheel. For Peter Dumbreck, it was the first time to be back at Le Mans since his spectacular departure in 1999.

The prelude to Le Mans started very well for Spyker. During the test session the time was already more than 6 seconds quicker than last year's qualifying time. The team brought a brand new Spyker C8 Spyder GT2R to the circuit. All of the updates that were fitted to the number 85 at the 1000km of Spa two weeks ago have been applied on the number 86 as well. Both Spyker C8 GT2Rs now have a closed roof, a higher rear wing and the improved suspension system.

The team worked on the set-up of the car and was quickly able to find the right set-up and Michelin tyre compound for the race. Both cars were tested on long runs on Sunday and tire testing on double stints.

Ronald van de Laar, director Spyker Squadron, says: "Winning the 24 hours of Le Mans has nothing to do with being able to perform the quickest lap around the track. This heroic race has all to do with reliability and consistency without taking too much risk. We had no issues today and both cars and drivers constantly improved their times during the day.

Spyker ended with no high speed runs on a solid fifth place within two seconds from the pace. The GT2 is nowadays the most competitive class in Le Mans due to the race cars coming so close to the actual factory cars and it is therefore heavily supported by all the major factory teams such as Ferrari, Porsche, Panoz and TVR.

The teams have one week to prepare the cars before the scrutinizing days, early in the race week, and qualifying. Spyker Squadron will further improve the car and add some aerodynamic improvements.

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#### Not for publication

For more information, please contact:

Spyker Cars  
Ronald van de Laar, Director Spyker Squadron  
Sylvia Hugenholtz, PR & Communications Manager  
Edisonweg 2  
3899 AZ Zeewolde  
Tel: +31 (0)36.53 58 787  
press@spykercars.com