



## Lotus Cars

February 2005

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### Lotus Sport Cadena GT3 Race Team

Lotus Sport, the performance division of Lotus Cars, and Cadena announce the signing of a two-year agreement for the supply of a minimum of 2 Lotus Sport Exige GT3 race cars to be campaigned initially in the British GT Championship in 2006 with an expectation of also entering FIA European GT3 Championship in 2007.

The team will be branded Lotus Sport Cadena.

The Lotus Sport Exige GT3 entrant has been developed by Lotus Sport and is a derivative of the new Lotus Exige S coupe model. Weighing in at approximately 750 kg, it stays true to the "performance through light weight" core Lotus philosophy. The car uses a race prepared 1.8 2ZZ-GE VVTL-i engine with a Roots type supercharger and air-to-air intercooler which utilises the Lotus T4e Engine Control Unit to produce 285 hp (289 PS) at 7,800 rpm. This gives an impressive power to weight ratio of 380 hp / tonne or 2.6 kg / PS.

Drivers are yet to be confirmed for the two chassis.

Chris Arnold, General Manager for Lotus Sport is looking forward to the championship: "We see this as the essential next stage in the development of the Lotus Sport Exige GT3 race car. The British GT Series is a very competitive championship and features some very exciting racing as well as some fine cars, drivers and teams. Although this is not a full factory team, we are working closely together to build the Lotus Sport brand in GT racing for global success in the future. Lotus has a fine tradition in GT sportscar racing over more than 50 years, and I am delighted to see Lotus Sport Cadena on the grid for 2006."

For Cadena, Paul Whight stated "2006 will be a year of discovery for Lotus Sport Cadena. We expect to sign 4 drivers very shortly, and look forward to working very closely with Lotus Sport to develop both the team and the cars during the 2006 season. Looking beyond 2006, we have our sights on the FIA European GT3 Championship in 2007 so we will view this year as one of development for the future."

Notes: cont.:>>





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### 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.

### For further details please contact:

PR Department

Group Lotus plc, Potash Lane, Hethel, Norfolk, UK, NR14 8EZ

Tel: +44(0)1953 608264; Fax: +44(0)1953 608111; Email: [pr@lotuscars.co.uk](mailto:pr@lotuscars.co.uk)

Andreas Maenner

European Press Officer, Lotus Cars Ltd.

Koenigsberger Strasse 10, 71696 Moeglingen, Germany

Tel: +49 (0)7141 240 324; Fax.: +49 (0)7141 240 325 ; Mobile: +49 171 4846 724

Email: [amaenner@lotuscars.co.uk](mailto:amaenner@lotuscars.co.uk)

**Team Principal – Paul Whight : 07785 276 409**

