

Le Mans brings a golden hat trick to Hahn and bronze in the team competition to MKR Technology

Le Mans – The fight is over! The chequered flag was flapped one last time before the truck racers' eyes. This year's European Championship title was seized again by Germany's Jochen Hahn, who has thus completed a golden hat trick. We had to wait until the last season's race at the Le Mans circuit to have the name of the old-new champion confirmed. The legendary venue in the French town of Le Mans hosted a nerve-wrecking show at the season's end and it was Hahn who tackled the tension best. MKR Technology, the team based in North Bohemia, has not achieved a podium position in the overall ranking for the first time in its history, yet they collected bronze in the "constructors' trophy" contest.

MKR Technology had an excellent start at the tenth and last round of the season. Already in the opening race achieved the pilots Markus Bösiger and Adam Lacko sensational podium double in the handicap race. *'In the end it was not a bad day at all although we had a little difficulty in the wet conditions in the morning,'* smiled MKR Technology's Adam Lacko.

In Le Mans the pilots usually have to endure wet and cold weather and neither this time was any different. However, MKR Technology trucks tend to perform well in such conditions. *'In qualifying I posted a time good enough for fourth place but at the last minute I dropped to fifth when Jochen Hahn set his final time. Even so it's better than sixth which has had a hold on me lately,'* said Adam.

Saturday's pole position went to Norbert Kiss after a sensational race, but in the championship race the top position was taken from him by Jochen Hahn. A passing manoeuvre on Oestreich ensured third place to Albacete. The team colleagues Adam Lacko and Markus Bösiger were holding on to fifth and sixth positions almost the entire race but Lacko in the last lap Lacko accidentally got into contact with Bösiger. Consequently, Bösiger was taken over not only by Lacko but also David Vršecký, who had been following the duo. As a result, Bösiger collected points for seventh place. *'At the exit of the previous corner I was faster and there was a place I thought I could overtake him but he didn't see me and we touched each other slightly. Fortunately, we explained it to each other and were able to smile about it, in handicap race we were able to make up for it,'* said Adam.

Early evening then saw the handicap race restarted due to a collision. After the second start the front was occupied by Markus Bösiger and Adam Lacko. They built a solid lead and headed towards a double podium result. That meant the wish they had before coming to Le Mans actually came true – both MKR pilots standing on the podium together like in the preceding years. The gold Bösiger and silver Lacko were accompanied by David Vršecký, and so the winners' podium in Le Mans was occupied by drivers from North Bohemia on day one. On top of that, it was the first time this season that a MAN truck was missing from the fastest trio. *'It's great. Le Mans always means a little bit more for every driver so when we took the first two positions it made the team very happy,'* commented Markus with satisfaction.

Yet the Saturday half still did not decide who'd take home the title. Antonio Albacete had a four-point lead to Hahn on second place. However, the result of Sunday's super pole, which always decides the starting grid for the championship race, didn't favour Albacete at all. There were twenty valuable points to be assigned to the winner. Albacete started from position seven, whilst his greatest rival Hahn held position two on the start. We also had a reason to cheer, as our pilots gave a



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great performance in the super pole race. They were both holding front positions until the limit was almost up, only then were they beaten by Kiss, Hahn and Vršecký. All three of them continued by starting out well and occupying the podium together. Hahn took the win before Kiss and Vršecký, respectively. Albacete pushed through to the front as well, finally landing on fourth place. Adam Lacko recorded points for fifth position with Markus Bösiger closely following him. *'I knew I could get neither higher nor lower in the ranking, so I didn't push that hard. My main goal was to get myself and the truck safely to the finish. The race was a total scrum. You could sense everyone was struggling to grab the last points,'* commented our pilot Adam Lacko, who already knew he would conclude the season on sixth place this year.

Hahn had a six-point advantage at the start of the final handicap race. Hungary's Kiss prematurely ensured fifth position for Vršecký, already fourth in a row. The worst-case scenario for Kiss was fourth place, yet he still had a hypothetical chance to get the bronze medal. As could be expected, the nerves showed in the season's final race. The handicap race wasn't particularly dramatic. Due to a crash with Albacete, Kiss was forced to retire prematurely, burying his hopes for the bronze, which was eventually smoothly taken by Oestreich on fifth place. The race was overruled by the teenage talent Benedek Major. Markus Bösiger was chasing right after him. *'It was a damn fast final race, the flag was flapped before I even managed to found my bearings. Closing the season on the podium is amazing, the atmosphere in the team and at the circuit was superb,'* added our silver Markus, who occupies seventh place overall.

The bronze medal was taken by Albacete with Hahn completing the race right after him, which meant he could immediately start celebrating his third successive title, this time winning with a five-point headstart.

Although we've missed the podium in the individual competition this year, we reached for the bronze in the teams' competition, the so called "constructors' trophy". *'At the season's start we wanted to do much better than that but the MANs proved unbeatable. Everyone on the team was working hard and boldly and I'm happy and grateful for that,'* summed up the season MKR Technology's boss Mario Kress.

European Truckracing Championship 2013

1. Jochen Hahn (GER/MAN) Castrol Team Hahn Racing	417
2. Antonio Albacete (ESP/MAN) Equipo Cepsa	412
3. Markus Oestreich (GER/MAN) Truck Sport Lutz Bernau	316
4. Norbert Kiss (HUN/MAN) Oxxo Truck Race Team	301
5. David Vršecký (CZE/Freightliner) Buggyra	294
6. Adam Lacko (CZE/Renault) MKR Technology	227
7. Markus Bösiger (SUI/Renault) MKR Technology	201

European Truckracing Team Championship 2013

1. Truck Sport Lutz Bernau (Albacete / Oestreich) - MAN	777
2. Castrol Team Hahn Racing (Hahn / Mäkinen) - MAN	630
3. MKR Technology (Lacko / Bösiger) – Renault Trucks	503
4. OXXO Energy Truck Race Team (Kiss / Major) - MAN	457
5. Team Blaise Janiec (Blaise / Janiec) – Renault Trucks	168
6. Lion Truck Racing (Robineau / Halm) – MAN	83



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