

13<sup>th</sup> of March, 2009

## **Northern European Cup 2009 kicks off with two test days at Spa – Francorchamps**

**The season of the Northern European Cup 2009 officially begins on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of March at the famous track of Spa – Francorchamps. Starting Monday, the track will host the first official test of the season, providing teams and drivers with the opportunity to prepare themselves for another exciting year of motor sport.**

Approximately 20 cars from at least five different countries are expected for each day, putting their talent and skills to work in a morning and afternoon session.

The season of 2009 looks promising for the Northern European Cup, as a field of about 20 cars is expected to join the first races on the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> of April on Circuit Park Zandvoort. In addition to a strong field of cars, NEC has expanded its territory to the Czech Republic, participating in their biggest event of the year, the Truck GP at Most.

In order to develop the talent of the young drivers of Formula Renault 2.0, the calendar includes races in popular events, such as the Rizla Racing days at Assen, FIA GT at Oschersleben and the World Series by Renault at the Nürburgring.

The Northern European Cup always strives to be a better platform for young drivers to improve their skills. That is why the Cup has implemented a new racing format, similar to that of GP2. From now on, drivers qualify only once in a session of 30 minutes, determining the starting grid of the first race. The result of race 1 will be the starting grid of the second race, but with the important difference that the first eight drivers will start in reversed order.

This offers drivers the opportunity to gain more experience by operating in a different place in the field and truly race to fight their way to the top.

Further information about the Northern European Cup Formula Renault 2.0 can be found on the official websites [www.renault-sport.de](http://www.renault-sport.de) and [www.necup.com](http://www.necup.com).

For any questions, please contact Claire Dubbelman ([claire@mdh.nl](mailto:claire@mdh.nl), tel: +31 654 782 300) and Ralph Weishaupt ([ralph.weishaupt@renault.de](mailto:ralph.weishaupt@renault.de), tel: +49 22 32 / 73 92 21).