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PRESS RELEASE

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## Deutschland Tour to visit Bonn

**STADT.  
CITY.  
VILLE.  
BONN.**

Bad Soden – February 23, 2018. Bonn will be the fifth German city to host a stage of the new Deutschland Tour. In addition to the start in Koblenz and the finish in Stuttgart, as well as stage visits in Merzig and Trier, the race from August 23-26 will also visit Bonn. Bonn will be the only stage host in Nordrhein-Westfalen. The complete course will be announced on March 2, in the presence of German pro riders and representatives of the host cities and Bundesländer.

In order to give cycling fans in the most populous Bundesland a unique experience, Bonn will host both the finish and the start of a stage. Fans on the side of the road can experience the pro riders at the Deutschland Tour on a closing circuit in the city, which will be ridden twice. In addition to the pro race, the visitors will also be offered an Expo, kids races, and family-friendly rides on streets closed to traffic. And many other events are planned, always with the bike and the joy of cycling in the middle point.

"Bonn is for us the perfect example of a cycling city: modern and ambitious. In the coming years, Bonn wants to become one of Nordrhein-Westfalen's cycling cities. To do that, they need not only investment in the infrastructure but also enthusiasm from cycling fans. With the Deutschland Tour, we want to rouse this fun of cycling – from sport to everyday use," said Claude Rach, director of the Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports, which organizes the Deutschland Tour.

"We are working hard to strengthen the environmentally-friendly bike. We have already done a lot to meet our long-term goal of increasing the percent of cycling traffic in the city to 25 percent. Cycling lanes are installed, cycling 'highways' and a bike-rental system are being planned. With events like the Deutschland Tour, we want to animate those who live in Bonn to climb on their bikes and actively experience Bonn," said Ashok Sridharan, mayor of Bonn.

Bonn native Christian Knees (36, Team Sky) said: "For me, this closes the circle. At the very start of my career, I was in Bonn with the old Deutschland Tour. Thirteen years later, my family can now watch the race from home. I hope that all goes well and that I will lead my team through my hometown."

Rick Zabel (24, Team Katusha-Alpecin), who lives in south Köln, added. "Super, that the Deutschland Tour goes through my training area the first time it is run in this new edition. Many German pro riders live and train in the Köln-Bonn area. We know the roads here like the back of our hands. There will be a hard fight on the finish line in Bonn, because I already know that some of the local guys will want to go all out."

### About the Tour of Germany

The new Tour of Germany will take place for the first time on August 23-26, 2018 as a four-day stage race. Like the cycling classic Eschborn-Frankfurt, the Deutschland Tour is also organized by the Amaury Sport Organization (A.S.O.) and its German subsidiary Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports GmbH. The A.S.O. has agreed with the German Cycling Federation (BDR) to organize at least ten events of the Deutschland Tour. In addition to racing for professional, junior and amateur cyclists, the bike will be featured in its full diversity at the Tour of Germany. For the first time, fans can actively participate in creating a cycling event. More than 1,500 route suggestions and ideas have already been submitted, making the motto "Germany. Your Tour." come alive.