



PRESS RELEASE

Big start of the Deutschland Tour in the Hanseatic City of Stralsund

- Four demanding stages with 722 kilometers, from the Baltic Sea to Franconia
- An internationally top-class field of riders, including the four-time Tour de France winner Chris Froome, the record stage winner of the Tour de France Mark Cavendish and the stage winner of the Deutschland Tour 2019 Alexander Kristoff
- A home game for the German stars, from Nils Politt and Emanuel Buchmann to the entire sprint elite, around Pascal Ackermann, Phil Bauhaus and John Degenkolb as well as the local hero of the first stage, André Greipel

Top teams on demanding routes

The Deutschland Tour 2021 leads across Germany on four varied stages, from the Baltic Sea in the north to Franconia in the south. A flat, but windy stage in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania will kick-off the race on Thursday. After the start in Stralsund, the weather will play an important role on the coast and later in the hinterland. For local hero André Greipel, knowledge of the route could become a decisive factor.

Nils Politt: From stage winner of the Deutschland Tour to stage winner of Le Tour

Nils Politt used the premiere of the new Deutschland Tour perfectly: In 2018, he won the final stage in Stuttgart and got his first pro win. This year he was able to top it off at the Tour de France, with a solo victory over twelve kilometers in Nimes - his greatest success so far. The 27-year-old says: "The profile of the Deutschland Tour doesn't seem too difficult this year. However, the weather will not be so good, so the race will probably be quick and nervous. And there are a lot of sprinters, so it won't be that easy."

Tim Heiduk and Chris Froome - German U23 champ meets Tour de France champ

On the eve of the Deutschland Tour 2021, Chris Froome was one of the top international stars among fans and media. "Now that I've solved all the problems that hindered me this year, I'm looking forward to my first race since the Tour de France," says Froome: "I'm here with a good team and I've heard the stages are difficult to predict."

"I put the greatest pressure on myself. I am full of ambitions, just because of the many big names that are here this year - it's a great honor to be part of it!", says German U23 champion Kim Heiduk. The young rider from German Continental Team Lotto - Kern Haus is racing the Deutschland Tour for the second time already. For him the stage race as a springboard for his pro career.

Pascal Ackermann and Phil Bauhaus: The sprint elite

Pascal Ackermann is at the start of the Deutschland Tour for the third time after 2018 and 2019. And it was always the opening stage that suited him. In the last edition he fought his way to victory and rode

About the Deutschland Tour

The Deutschland Tour is Germany's largest cycling festival. The four-day professional race and the hands-on offers in all host cities attract more than 500,000 visitors. In Germany alone, more than 5 million viewers watch the live broadcast on ARD and ZDF – worldwide, the images go to 190 countries. On the Deutschland Tour, fans experience the German top stars and the international Tour de France elite up close. The event is a true festival around the bicycle and puts a special focus on the audience. In addition to thousands of tips on route planning before the race, 5,000 participants use the Jedermann Tour, the Ride Tour and the "kinder Joy of Moving mini tour" to participate. The Deutschland Tour is organized by the Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports mbH (GFR). The GFR is a joint venture between the Tour de France organizer Amaury Sport Organization (A.S.O.) and the Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG). In addition to the Deutschland Tour, the company is also organizing the cycling classic Eschborn-Frankfurt on May 1. The Deutschland Tour 2021 will run over four stages on August 26–29 from Stralsund in the north to Nuremberg in the south of Germany.



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into the prestigious Red Jersey of the leader. "The wind will play a big role. And there are many names who can give it a go in the sprint. It is sure to be interesting!"

While Ackermann is lining-up for his Deutschland Tour hat-trick, Phil Bauhaus is celebrating his premiere. And he's in form: From each of his last three stage races the sprinter returned with at least one stage win - a series he likes to continue. "My year has been going pretty well so far, my legs are also good. My goal for the Deutschland Tour is a stage win, but everything must be right also aside from my legs. The competition is fierce - I'm looking forward to it!" says the sprinter.

André Greipel: The local hero

Looking back at the end of his career: In July 1982 André Greipel was born in Krizmow, a suburb of Rostock. The Deutschland Tour reaches Rostock a good 70 kilometers after starting in Stralsund. A milestone as it also marks the first sprint classification of this year's tour. A homage to the "gorilla", because André Greipel is still connected to his home in Mecklenburg: "I have never forgotten where I come from", he likes to emphasize: "And now the time has come - I had to wait for 17 years until a race finally comes to my home region. I'll enjoy it, but I also want to race for victory."

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