



PRESS RELEASE

Top rider for the premiere: Tour de France winner Geraint Thomas to start at the Tour of Germany

Bad Soden – August 17th, 2018. When the Tour of Germany celebrates its comeback after a ten-year break on August 23, one rider will stand out among the 132 professionals. Geraint Thomas (Team Sky) will make his first official race appearance after winning the Tour de France at the Deutschland Tour. The 32-year-old Welshman has opted for the four-day race from Koblenz to Stuttgart to enter the second half of the season.

The roads of Germany have been a good place for Thomas so far. Last year he won the opening ITT of the Tour de France in Düsseldorf and wore the yellow jersey in the world's biggest race for the first time. A good omen for the sovereign victory this year. The German races in the years before were also characterized by success, especially at the Tour of Bavaria.

Geraint Thomas: *"I've won Bayern-Rundfahrt twice and I really enjoy racing in Germany. It's a lovely country and I really enjoy going there. It will be great to race the Deutschland Tour. I went to see my coach Tim Kerrison after the Tour and we outlined the Deutschland Tour as a great race to make my comeback. I'm looking forward to it."*

In addition to Geraint Thomas, who also relies on the home field advantage of his teammate Christian Knees, more international top stars will line-up for the Tour of Germany. The high-profile start list, which will be announced on Monday, underlines the importance of the newly launched stage race. With its varied route and its position in the international calendar, the Deutschland Tour is attractive for different types of riders. Alongside Team Sky, 11 WorldTour teams are competing, including Bora-hansgrohe and Sunweb from Germany. In addition, there are six teams from the second division as well as four German continental teams and one from Luxembourg.

Claude Rach, Managing Director of the Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports, the German subsidiary of race organizer A.S.O.: *"The best German young riders will ride together with the winner of the Tour de France. This only happens at the Tour of Germany. Top sprinters, classic stars and the world's best GC riders will be at the start in Koblenz. This is a dream debut for the new Deutschland Tour. During the four days, we will create Germany's biggest natural stadium."*

About Deutschland Tour

The Deutschland Tour will take place from August 23 to 26 in the southwest of Germany and will cross five federal states between the start in Koblenz and the final in Stuttgart. On the four stages, which will make a stop in Bonn, Trier, Merzig and Lorsch and cover 737 kilometers, sprinters and classic riders have equally opportunities. With its comeback the Deutschland Tour focusses particularly on the visitors and fans. In addition to an extensive participation program, inner city loops guarantee a great cycling experience to the fans. The Deutschland Tour will be a true bicycle festival. In each city that hosts a stage final there will be a show and a big expo as well as a children's bike course. Family-oriented rides on closed roads are also planned. On August 25, the Newcomer Tour, the junior race of the Deutschland Tour, takes place in Merzig. The Jedermann Tour, a sportive for 3,500 participants, will be held on August 26 in Stuttgart and the Stuttgart Region. The Deutschland Tour is organized by the Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports GmbH, the German subsidiary of Tour de France organizer Amaury Sport Organization (A.S.O.). The A.S.O. has entered into a strategic partnership with the Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG) leading the sales process regarding the new Deutschland Tour.