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PRESS RELEASE

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## Hodeg, Colombian Sensation

Bonn – August 23, 2018. The last time a rider raised his arm in the air on the finish line of the Deutschland Tour was ten years ago so who better than a young and promising sprinter to do so again on this brand new edition of the event. As expected stage 1 of the race was decided in a bunched sprint on the final long straight in Bonn but while many were expecting German specialists Kittel, Greipel or Ackerman, Alvaro Hodeg triumphantly powered to the line. The Colombian eventually captured the win ahead of Ackerman and Bonifazio and naturally conquers the overall leader's orange jersey.

### EMOTION AT THE START

Ten years after it last took off, there was a clear feeling of pride and emotion in beautiful Koblenz when the pack of the "reborn" Deutschland Tour hit the road. Under a perfectly clear sky and in warm conditions the 131 riders including the likes of Tour de France winner Geraint Thomas but also Tom Dumoulin, Romain Bardet, Warren Barguil and local heroes Kittel and Greipel, took off just before noon for a 157-km ride heading to Ludwig Van Beethoven's birth town, Bonn. After a fairly fast start and quite a few attempts, six men eventually managed to take off at km 18: Arcas (MOV), Van Melsen (WGG), Jarrier (FST), Reynders (LPC), Lubbers (LKH) and Reutter (HRN).

### 6 IN THE BREAK

They reached the first intermediate sprint in Nassau (km 25), won by Reutter, with a 2'30" lead over a pack led by teams Quick Step and Bora-Hansgrohe. That gap grew to over 3' before dropping down again as the pack kept control over the escapees with the clear plan to let the top sprinters battle it out once in Bonn. With under 100kms to go, the gap stabilized around 2'30" as André Greipel's Lotto-Soudal moved to the front of the peloton. At the second intermediate sprint (km 108), again won by Germany's Reutter, the gap had slightly dropped to 2'25.

### VAN MELSEN BEST CLIMBER

On the only designated hill of the day in Hohn, Reutter and Lubbers were the first two to be dropped. At the summit, Belgian Van Melsen conquered the most climbers points (3) while the pack moved closer, at 1'45". With 36kms to go, Frenchman Jarrier decided to stop his efforts leaving his three former companions carry on their ride at the front. One after the other, the riders from teams Quick Step, Bora-Hansgrohe, Lotto-Soudal and Katusha-Alpecin intensified the pursuit and the last three breakaway survivors

#### About the Deutschland Tour

The new Deutschland Tour 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 Deutschland Tour. 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.



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were caught with under 15kms to go just after the Bonus sprint claimed by Reynders (earning him 3 bonus seconds).

#### ROWE GIVES IT A GO

As soon as the break was caught team Sky led by Vasil Kiryanka and Geraint Thomas himself powered to the front. A perfect move that allowed Luke Rowe to give it a go with under 10kms remaining. The British rider's efforts would prove to be vain as he was chased down by the Bora-Hansgrohe boys and caught with 5kms to go. Time had come for a royal sprint as the pack entered the city of Bonn.

#### HODEG AHEAD OF ACKERMAN

Thanks to the hard work of his Bora-Hansgrohe squad, Pascal Ackerman produced his effort with 200m only to be outpaced by "Colombian bullit" Alvaro Hodeg. The Quick Step sprinter finally claimed stage 1 victory ahead of Ackerman and Niccolo Bonifazio (TBM). He adds a fine line to his already impressive record after already winning at the Tour of Poland and the Vuelta a Catalunya this year. The 21-year-old conquers the overall leadership and will be carrying the orange jersey on his shoulders tomorrow for stage 2 of the race between Bonn and Trier. He also leads the points classification and the best young riders' standings.

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