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PRESS RELEASE

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## **German Continental teams for the Deutschland Tour selected**

Bad Soden – July 3, 2018. The binding qualification criteria for the German Continental teams for the Deutschland Tour were announced at the start of the season. Now that the German championships have been held, the two best-placed German Continental teams in the BDR's Rad-Bundesliga and the UCI Europe Tour have received invitations to the Deutschland Tour. The teams Lotto-Kern Haus, Dauner D&DQ Akkon, Heizomat Rad-Net.de and Sauerland NRW p/b SKS Germany have fulfilled these criteria and will take part in the Deutschland Tour. Germany's only stage race for Elite Men takes place August 23-26 and runs over four stages from Koblenz to Stuttgart.

As the top team in the Rad-Bundesliga and second ranked German team in the Europe Tour, Team Lotto-Kern Haus qualified easily for the Deutschland Tour. The first stage of the race will be a "home game" for the Koblenz-based team. The team with manager Florian Monreal is naturally motivated: "We want to present ourselves in the second half of the season as we have so far. That certainly applies to the Deutschland Tour with the start in Koblenz and near the headquarters of our main sponsor Lotto. We want to show ourselves every day and bring in one or more top results."

Team Dauner D&DQ Akkon is the second-best Continental team in the Bundesliga and has thus also fulfilled the participation criteria for the Deutschland Tour. Heizomat Rad-Net.de and Team Sauerland NRW p/b SKS Germany qualified through the UCI Europe Tour. Since the Development Team Sunweb cannot start and Lotto-Kern Haus received its invitation through the Bundesliga, the third and fourth ranked teams from the UCI Europe Tour move up. The developmental Sunweb team, the best-ranked German Continental team, is not allowed to take part under the statutes of the international federation UCI, as the Elite Team Sunweb will be at the start of the Deutschland Tour.

Claude Rach, director of the Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Radsports:

"I am sure that the German Continental teams will liven up the Deutschland Tour. In the last weeks they have offered up a great fight in the Bundesliga races and in the Europe Tour, in order to qualify for the Deutschland Tour. A pro stage race in the homeland is a strong attraction for both riders and business. From young German talents to the world stars – the fans can look forward to them all.

In addition to the eleven WorldTour and four German Continental teams, there will be six ProContinental teams at the start of the new Deutschland Tour. Two of the teams at the start in Koblenz, Wanty-Groupe Gobert and Fortuneo-Samsic, will be riding the upcoming Tour de France as wildcards. Teams from Russia (Gazprom-RusVelo), the USA (Rally Cycling), Israel (Israel Cycling Academy) and the Netherlands (Roompot-Nederlandse Loterij) emphasize the international character of the race.

### **About the Deutschland Tour**

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.



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An additional invitation to the Deutschland Tour went to the Leopard Pro Cycling team. The team from Luxembourg has in Alexander Krieger one of the most successful German riders in the UCI Europe Tour. 32 race days with 27 Top Ten results – that is the convincing season balance of the 26-year-old from Stuttgart, who already has his eye on the big closing stage of the race in his home town.

Each of the 22 teams at the Deutschland Tour will be at the start with six riders.

The 22 teams of the Deutschland Tour 2018:

### UCI WorldTour

AG2R La Mondiale (FRA), Bahrain-Merida (BRN), BMC Racing Team (USA), Bora-hansgrohe (GER), Team Dimension Data (RSA), Lotto Soudal (BEL), Movistar Team (ESP), Quick-Step Floors (BEL), Team Katusha Alpecin (SUI), Team Sky (GBR), Team Sunweb (GER)

### UCI ProContinental

Gazprom-RusVelo (RUS), Israel Cycling Academy (ISR), Rally Cycling (USA), Roompot-Nederlandse Loterij (NED), Team Fortuneo-Samsic (FRA), Wanty-Groupe Gobert (BEL)

### UCI Continental

Heizomat Rad-Net.de (GER), Leopard Pro Cycling (LUX), Team Dauner D&DQ Akkon (GER), Team Lotto-Kern Haus (GER), Team Sauerland NRW p/b SKS Germany (GER)

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