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PRESS RELEASE

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## Thomas, Dumoulin and Bardet to enlighten the revived Deutschland Tour

Bad Soden – August 20, 2018. Tour de France winner Geraint Thomas, runner up Tom Dumoulin and Romain Bardet are the big names of the Deutschland Tour set to serve as the platform for the new generation of German cycling. Local heroes of today (Marcel Kittel, André Greipel, Pascal Ackermann), tomorrow (Maximilian Schachmann, Nils Politt, Lennard Kämna) and after tomorrow (the young guns of the continental teams) are on their toes for the race due to take place from August 23 to 26. From Koblenz to Stuttgart, the whole German cycling community is involved in the event.

Young German national champion Pascal Ackermann, 24, who already has six victories under his belt this year, will pin the bib number 1 on Thursday at the start in Koblenz the day after the team presentation in which the riders will travel by ski lift from the city's castle to the Deutsches Eck at the confluence of the Rhein and Mosel rivers. The symbol of the German unity lays there. The sprinter of Bora-Hansgrohe – one of the two German WorldTour teams lining up, the other one being Team Sunweb – is also the symbol of the passing of the baton between two generations of fast men used to win a lot.

Ackermann described the Deutschland Tour as "a very nice and very interesting race". Part of it is held on his usual training roads. "It's fantastic for us to have a national Tour again", echoed Marcel Kittel. "Finally the Deutschland Tour is back", added André Greipel with the same enthusiasm ahead of the highly anticipated bunch sprint in Bonn. "The profiles of the stages are perfect", said Maximilian Schachmann. "Stage 2 and stage 3 are like classics in the Ardennes."

The Deutschland Tour is back on the international cycling calendar after a 10-year break. It's the only stage race likely to host the world's best riders on German soil. Some big stars have answered the call indeed. Geraint Thomas (Team Sky) will resume racing in Koblenz after winning the Tour de France last month. So do runner up Tom Dumoulin (Team Sunweb) and one of his most worthy challenger Romain Bardet (AG2R-La Mondiale). Slovenia's Matej Mohoric (Bahrain-Merida), the King of the Mountains of the 2017 Tour de France Warren Barguil (Fortuneo-Samsic) and the Ecuadorian revelation of the Giro d'Italia Richard Carapaz add their names to list of the favourites.

« Bis bald Deutschland » (see you soon, Germany), Bardet concluded – in German – in a video message in which he said he's looking forward to being back racing in the country where he started the 2017 Tour de France he completed in third place overall. He kept fond memories of Düsseldorf and praised his team-mate Nico Denz. He'll quickly realize that the Deutschland Tour isn't just another race. "It's a platform to prepare the future of German cycling and associate all the present and coming members of the German cycling community", said Claude Rach, the General Manager of the German subsidiary of Amaury Sport

### 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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Organisation. "We also organise the Ride Tour for anyone to ride their bike in their city on closed roads, the kinder+Sport mini tour for kids from 5 to 12 years old, the Newcomer Tour for U17 girls (on Saturday), the Jedermann Tour, an amateur race for everyone (on Sunday)."

The participatory calling of the event, "Deutschland. Deine Tour", is also featured in the drawing of the route. 1500 suggestions from the fans have contributed to determine the course, making it a subtle one. Their names will appear on the leader's jersey. The Deutschland Tour will be broadcast on regional and national TV channels, including ZDF on Saturday and ARD on Sunday. Cycling lovers might already be familiar with Schachmann, Nils Politt and Lennard Kämna whose talent enthralled the world's cycling scene. Throughout this race, they can get to know the likes of promising cyclists Joshua Huppertz or Alexander Krieger, but the Deutschland Tour is an opportunity for all ambitious riders to take their chance.

#### **The 22 teams and the main entered riders:**

**Bora-hansgrohe (GER)** – Pascal Ackermann, Patrick Konrad  
**Team Sunweb (GER)** – Tom Dumoulin, Max Walscheid, Lennard Kämna  
**Team Katusha Alpecin (SUI)** – Marcel Kittel, Rick Zabel, Simon Špilak, Nils Politt  
**AG2R La Mondiale (FRA)** – Romain Bardet, Nico Denz  
**Lotto Soudal (BEL)** – André Greipel, Marcel Sieberg  
**Team Dimension Data (RSA)** – Mark Renshaw, Bernhard Eisel  
**Quick-Step Floors (BEL)** – Maximilian Schachmann, Álvaro José Hodeg  
**Team Sky (GBR)** – Geraint Thomas, Christian Knees  
**Movistar Team (ESP)** – Jasha Sütterlin, Ruben Fernandez  
**BMC Racing Team (USA)** – Jürgen Roelandts, Damiano Caruso  
**Bahrain-Merida (BRN)** – Matej Mohoric, Heinrich Haussler

**Wanty-Groupe Gobert (BEL)** – Pieter Vanspeybroeck, Guillaume Martin  
**Israel Cycling Academy (ISR)** – Ben Hermans  
**Roompot-Nederlandse Loterij (NED)** – Pieter Weening  
**Gazprom-RusVelo (RUS)** – Ildar Arslanov  
**Team Fortuneo-Samsic (FRA)** – Warren Barguil  
**Rally Cycling (USA)** – Colin Joyce  
**Leopard Pro Cycling (LUX)** – Alexander Krieger  
**Team Lotto- Kern Haus (GER)** – Joshua Huppertz  
**Team Sauerland NRW p/b SKS Germany (GER)** – Aaron Grosser  
**Heizomat Rad-Net (GER)** – Patrick Haller  
**Team Dauner D&DQ Akkon (GER)** – Philipp Mamos

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