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PRESSEMITTEILUNG

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## World champion Ganna takes first Red Jersey by winning the prologue of the Deutschland Tour

Although he had to compete without a time trial machine – like everyone else – ITT world champion Filippo Ganna (Ineos Grenadier) won the prologue over 2.6 kilometers. With his win, he takes the first red jersey of the Deutschland Tour 2022. The Italian mastered the six curves through Weimar in 2.56,89 minutes with 53 km/h about two seconds faster than Bauke Mollema (Trek – Segafredo), who was another second faster than Nils Politt (Bora – Hansgrohe).

The 26-year-old Ganna, who recently had to give way to the two Swiss Stefan Bissegger and Stefan Küng at the European Championships in Munich, said: *"It was a very intense race, at the finish line I was all out. In the last corner I risked a little bit more and went all or nothing. But I was lucky and got through. I would have preferred an ITT bike, but in the end everything went well."*

Per Münstermann from the German continental team Saris Rouvy Sauerland set the first time to beat with 3.20,4 min, but it didn't last long. Henri Uhlig (Alpecin - Deceuninck) was allowed to stay in the hot seat longer, before the Olympic champion of 2016 Greg Van Avermaet (AG2R Citroën) came in and replaced him. A new mark was set shortly after by Kim Heiduk (Ineos Grenadiers), which was only beaten by his teammate Adam Yates. After that Jumbo - Visma with Mick van Dijke took the lead. He rewarded himself with the White jersey for the best young rider. However, his best lasted only a few seconds. Because then Mollema, who delivered in 2.58,7 min the first time under three minutes, reached the finish line. After that, only Ganna and Politt beat the three-minutes-mark.

Olav Kooij (Jumbo - Visma) also battled for the hot seat for a long time. But the Dutchman crashed in the second part of the course and had to bury all ambitions for the stage's victory. However, the 20-year-old can comfort himself with the Blue jersey for the King of the Mountain, because at the split time, which held the first KOM, he was the fastest of all 119 competing riders.

The 1<sup>st</sup> stage of the Deutschland Tour on Thursday starts again in Weimar and leads the peloton over 171.7 kilometers through the hills of the Thuringian Forest to Meiningen. On their way the riders must pass the first category 1 climb of the race plus several hills, which give the course a classic profile. However, there are 20 kilometers left from the last climb – also the bonification point – to the finish line to catch a late breakaway.