

Honda Teams to Compete in 2023 FIM Endurance World Championship “Coca-Cola” Suzuka 8 Hours Endurance Road Race 44th Tournament

TOKYO, Japan, June 27, 2023 - Honda announced an overview of its main teams to compete in 2023 FIM^{*1} Endurance World Championship “Coca-Cola” Suzuka 8 Hours Endurance Road Race 44th Tournament (Suzuka 8 Hours), to be held at the Suzuka Circuit in Mie Prefecture, Japan, on Sunday, August 6, 2023.

Team HRC, which brought Honda its first victory in eight years last year, will compete again this year as a Honda factory team^{*2} with a factory bike based on the CBR1000RR-R FIREBLADE SP. This year, the team will be represented by FIM Superbike World Championship (WSBK) riders Iker Lecuona and Xavi Vierge, and Takumi Takahashi, who is competing in the MFJ^{*3} All Japan Road Race Championship (JRR) ST1000 class this season. Takahashi was one of the winning riders at last year’s event, and a victory this year will be his fifth in total, tying him for the most wins in the Suzuka 8 Hours.

2022 EWC series champion F.C.C. TSR Honda France will be represented by its regular riders Josh Hook, Mike Di Meglio and Alan Techer. The team won the season-opening Le Mans 24 hours race, is currently one point behind the series leader, ranked second this season (as of the end of Round 2). The team is aiming to gain as many points as possible at Suzuka, to defend the championship.

SDG Honda Racing will be represented by MFJ JRR JSB1000 class rider Teppei Nagoe, once again joined by Spanish Superbike Championship (ESBK) rider Naomichi Uramoto, and ST1000 class rider Yuki Kunii.

Honda Asia-Dream Racing with SHOWA, currently competing in the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship Asia Superbike 1000 (ASB1000) class, will be represented by Md Zaqwan Bin Zaidi, Andi Farid Izdihar, and Supersports 600 (ASS600) class rider Nakarin Atiratphuvapat.

*1 FIM: Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme

*2 Factory team: Racing team managed by the bike manufacturer.

*3 MFJ: Motorcycle Federation of Japan

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■ #33 Team HRC



Takumi Takahashi (competing in ST1000 class)

“I am very happy to be able to ride in the Suzuka 8 Hours again this year as a Team HRC rider, and Iker Lecuona and Xavi Vierge will join us from WSBK. I will work with the best team staff to win the race as Team HRC with all three riders, and I will do my best. Please come to Suzuka Circuit and give us your support!”



Iker Lecuona (competing in WSBK with Team HRC)

“I am very happy to be able to ride in the Suzuka 8 Hours again this year as Team HRC. Last year, we were able to win the race, but we knew that it was not an easy race, and the victory made us realize how high the top is. This year, my teammates will be Takumi Takahashi and Xavi Vierge, I am looking forward to racing with them. I will do my best with the team and staff and aim for the top of the podium again!”



Xavi Vierge (competing in WSBK with Team HRC)

“This will be the first time for me to ride in the Suzuka 8 Hours. I am very happy to be able to ride as a rider in the same stage where so many riders have created legends. Iker Lecuona is my teammate in WSBK, and Takumi Takahashi is a great rider who has won many 8 Hours races in the past. I believe that we can win this race to work hard three riders together. Please give us your power!”



Tetsuta Nagashima (HRC Test Rider)

“Unfortunately, due to an injury to my left foot, I was not in perfect condition at the time of entry this year. However, I am working on my rehabilitation so that I will be able to race. I have a special passion for the 8 Hours and have not given up on it. I am still in the process of recovery, but I would be happy to join the Team HRC again.”

■ #1 F.C.C. TSR Honda France



Josh Hook (competing in EWC with F.C.C. TSR Honda France)

“I’m really looking forward to going back to Suzuka, Japan. It’s one of my favourites. Home of TSR and Honda so it’s a track that I really like and our bike generally performs quite well. You know the team been doing a good job this year so far and the mechanics and everybody has been doing amazing job. So I’m even more looking forward to racing at Suzuka. I’m really looking forward to coming to Suzuka and seeing all the Japanese fans and racing there again for 2023.”



Mike Di Meglio (competing in EWC with F.C.C. TSR Honda France)

“The 2023 season starts very well in Le Mans 24 hours with the victory. The Team works very strong this winter to be more competitive. The bike is faster and the mechanics are very fast when we change rider. In Suzuka is always special! I really dream and would like to be on the podium. It’s a special race for our Team and Honda. We’ll do our best to be faster as we can!”



Alan Techer (competing in EWC with F.C.C. TSR Honda France)

“I’m very happy to be competing in the 8h Suzuka race this year and especially with the F.C.C. TSR Honda France team. The season started well with a 24 hours victory at Le Mans and a second place at the 24 hours Spa. The team works really well and my teammates are very fast. We will give our best to start at the top of the championship after this mythical race.”

■ #73 SDG Honda Racing



Teppei Nagoe (competing in JSB1000 class with SDG Honda Racing)

“I am happy to be able to participate in the Suzuka 8 Hours again this year with SDG Honda Racing. Last year, I was not in perfect condition due to injury, and the team was also involved in a crash early in the race, which was frustrating. This year, I will do my best to win the race together with SDG Showa Denki Group, Honda with its long history in the 8 Hours, and HARC-PRO.”



Naomichi Uramoto (currently competing in ESBK)

“First of all, I am glad to be able to race in the Suzuka 8 Hours again this year, and I would like to thank everyone involved with SDG Honda Racing, including SDG Showa Denki Group and HARC-PRO. Last year was very disappointing, but we had the speed to aim for the top positions, so this year we will focus beginning with the tests and work together as a team so that we can translate that into results.”



Yuki Kunii (competing in ST1000 class)

“I am very happy to be racing in the Suzuka 8 Hours for the SDG Honda Racing team this year, and I am very grateful to the SDG Showa Denki Group, the team, and our sponsors. Last year was my first Suzuka 8 Hours, and I gained a lot of experience. I will do my best again this year, playing my part in the team.”

■ #88 Honda Asia-Dream Racing with SHOWA



Md Zaqhwan Bin Zaidi (competing in ASB1000 class with Honda Asia-Dream Racing with SHOWA)

“I am thrilled to be able to participate again in the Suzuka 8 Hours this year. I made it through the tryouts at Suzuka 2&4 in April. The team did a great job and I am very grateful. This time I intend to achieve the best result so far. Thank you all for your support!”



Andi Farid Izdihar (competing in ASB1000 class with Honda Asia-Dream Racing with SHOWA)

“The last time I participated in the Suzuka 8 Hours was in 2019, so I am very happy and excited to be able to race here again. We have already tested at Suzuka this year and our three riders were able to set the bike up together and achieve good results. Now we can’t wait for the next tests and the race. Of course, I hope we can achieve the best results together!”



Nakarin Atiratphuvapat (competing in ASS600 class)

“I am very happy and excited to be able to participate in the Suzuka 8 Hours for the first time. Racing in the Suzuka 8 Hours is one of my dreams. Now that I have been chosen to participate, I will prepare to push 100% in the tests and the race. The three of us in our team will continue to give it everything and live up to everyone’s expectations.”

■ Main Honda Teams to Compete in 2023 Suzuka 8 Hours Race

Bike #	Team	Machine	Rider
1	F.C.C. TSR Honda France	CBR1000RR-R FIREBLADE SP	Josh Hook
			Mike Di Meglio
			Alan Techer
17	Astemo Honda Dream SI Racing	CBR1000RR-R FIREBLADE SP	Kosuke Sakumoto
			Ryo Mizuno
			Kazuma Watanabe
33	Team HRC	CBR1000RR-R FIREBLADE SP	Takumi Takahashi
			Iker Lecuona
			Xavi Vierge
40	Team ATJ	CBR1000RR-R FIREBLADE SP	Satoru Iwata
			Yuki Takahashi
			Tomoyoshi Koyama
72	Honda DREAM RT Sakurai Honda	CBR1000RR-R FIREBLADE SP	Kazuki Ito
			Daijiro Hiura
			Kota Arakawa
73	SDG Honda Racing	CBR1000RR-R FIREBLADE SP	Teppei Nagoe
			Naomichi Uramoto
			Yuki Kunii
88	Honda Asia-Dream Racing with SHOWA	CBR1000RR-R FIREBLADE	Md Zaqhwān Bin Zaidi
			Andi Farid Izdihar
			Nakaran Atiratphuvapat
104	TOHO Racing	CBR1000RR-R FIREBLADE SP	Ryuichi Kiyonari
			Takuma Kunimine
			TBA
333	Honda VILTAÍS Racing	CBR1000RR-R FIREBLADE	Florian Alt
			Steven Odendaal
			Léandro Mercado
TBA	TTS Racing MurayamaUnso Honda Dream	CBR1000RR-R FIREBLADE SP	Kosuke Akiyoshi
			Yoshihiro Konno
			Keiji Nakamura

※ Team details are current as of June 27, and are subject to change

※ Teams listed in order of bike number (#)