

August 29, 2024

### <FIM Grand Prix World Championship MotoGP> HRC and Takaaki Nakagami Agree to MotoGP Development Rider Contract

TOKYO, Japan, August 29, 2024 - Honda Racing Corporation (HRC) has agreed to a multi-year MotoGP development rider contract beginning in 2025 with Takaaki Nakagami (Chiba, Japan, age 32), who is competing in the FIM\*1 Grand Prix World Championship MotoGP class with IDEMITSU Honda LCR.

\*1 FIM: Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme



Takaaki Nakagami and RC213V



Takaaki Nakagami in action

Nakagami will be responsible for enhancing testing in Japan from 2025, as well as acting as a bridge between the test teams in Japan and Europe, sharing test results with both teams in order to allow HRC to develop its racing bikes more rapidly, and improve its competitiveness in MotoGP.

Nakagami first competed in the Moto2 class in 2012. Since 2014, he has been racing with IDEMITSU Honda Team Asia as part of Honda's program to nurture Asian riders who can compete on the global stage. In six years of Moto2 class competition, Nakagami achieved 14 podium finishes, including two wins. In 2018, he moved up to the premier MotoGP class, where he has been racing for seven years with IDEMITSU Honda LCR, and in the 2023 Thailand Grand Prix he became the first Japanese rider to compete in 100 MotoGP class grands prix.

The upcoming 2024 FIM MotoGP World Championship Series Round 16 Motul Grand Prix of Japan to be held at Mobility Resort Motegi (October 6) will be Nakagami's last home GP as a full-time MotoGP rider.

## ■ Takaaki Nakagami | IDEMITSU Honda LCR

“I have decided to retire from full-time MotoGP racing at the end of the 2024 season. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the fans who have supported me so much. I would also like to thank Idemitsu Kosan and Honda for their long-term support. I will be involved in HRC’s racing bike development from 2025. I am very glad to be able to make use of my seven years of experience in MotoGP, which is very rewarding. The Japanese GP in Motegi is coming up soon, in October. We have had a difficult season so far, but I will be energized from the cheers of the Japanese spectators to finish as high up the grid as possible.”

## ■ Koji Watanabe, President of Honda Racing Corporation

“I would like to thank Takaaki Nakagami for all his hard work over the past 15 years competing in the Grand Prix World Championship. I am very proud of his achievements with Honda, as he was the first Japanese rider to compete in more than 114 races over 7 seasons in the MotoGP class, and claim pole positions as well. This has been the toughest season Honda and HRC have experienced, and in order to improve this situation as quickly as possible, we need to further strengthen our development system. I have high expectations for the experience and skills of Nakagami, who has competed in the premier class.”

## ■ About Takaaki Nakagami

- Birth date: February 9, 1992 (32 years old)
- Birthplace: Chiba, Japan

### • Career highlights

2012	FIM Grand Prix World Championship Moto2 class	15th
2013	FIM Grand Prix World Championship Moto2 class	8th
2014	FIM Grand Prix World Championship Moto2 class	22nd
2015	FIM Grand Prix World Championship Moto2 class	8th
2016	FIM Grand Prix World Championship Moto2 class	6th
2017	FIM Grand Prix World Championship Moto2 class	7th
2018	FIM Grand Prix World Championship MotoGP class	20th
2019	FIM Grand Prix World Championship MotoGP class	13th
2020	FIM Grand Prix World Championship MotoGP class	10th
2021	FIM Grand Prix World Championship MotoGP class	15th
2022	FIM Grand Prix World Championship MotoGP class	18th
2023	FIM Grand Prix World Championship MotoGP class	18th
2024	FIM Grand Prix World Championship MotoGP class	20th* <sup>2</sup>

\*2 As of the end of Round 11, Austrian motorcycle Grand Prix, on August 18, 2024