

19 January 2018

Rounds 1 & 2
Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi - 19 / 20 January 2018

QUALIFYING

Giacomo Altoè wins pole position for the opening race

It was a thrilling Qualifying session at Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina Circuit that saw Giacomo Altoè setting pole position by a very slim gap for the opening event of the 2018 TCR Middle East series.

The young Italian moved up to the top of the time sheet when there were only ten minutes left in the session. Altoè clocked a provisional fastest lap of 1:47.710 that was only 20 thousandths of a second faster than Luca Engstler 1:14.730.

A few moments later they both improved – Altoè to 1:14.569 and Engstler to 1:14.673 – locking up the front row for tomorrow's Race 1.

Mat'ò Homola (1:14.782) and Florian Thoma (1:14.851) ranked third and fourth, two and three tenths from the pole respectively.

Kai Jordan claimed a brilliant fifth place (1:15.021) ahead of a trio of drivers who were all covered by four hundreds of a second: Jordi Oriola (1:15.263), Giovanni Altoè (1:15.267) and Lorenzo Veglia (1:15.305).

Alberto Vescovi was sixth, not far away (1:15.619), while Costas Papantonis was disappointed; in fact he was forced to stop early by an issue with the rear suspension that prevented him from repeating the times he had set earlier in Practice.

As a consolation he will be on pole position of the top-ten reverse grid for Race 2. A place that Martin Ryba missed by only four hundreds of a second.

The two 20-lap races will take place tomorrow at 11:00 and 14:25 local time respectively.

Drivers' quotes after the Qualifying session

Giacomo Altoè (pole position): *"I'm over the moon. We have been able to show the great potential of our car. Everything worked perfectly and it was a great result, for the team and for myself. We have worked very well in setting up the car and this paid off as my pole position time was very impressive."*

Luca Engstler (2nd fastest): *"It was really close. The team has done a very good job and I was confident I could set pole position myself. Unfortunately I made a small mistake in my fastest lap, otherwise I could have beaten Giacomo. But I'm very happy with the car and tomorrow I want to win the first race."*

Mat'ò Homola (3rd fastest): *"I'm happy. I was improving every lap, as I had to get used to the car that is very different from the one I drove last year. It is a good result, but because the gaps between the top four drivers are so small, I'm also a bit disappointed. In fact, taking away two tenths would have meant to be on pole."*

Florian Thoma (4th fastest): *“I really tried my best, but it was not enough. I have lost something in the last sector and this cost me a couple of tenths. However, I feel good in the car and I’m confident for the races.”*

2018 TCR Middle East Series – calendar

19/20 January – Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi

26/27 January – Dubai Autodrome

23/24 February – Bahrain International Circuit

Further information, results, HD pictures and live timing at <http://middleeast.tcr-series.com>

YAS MOTOR RACING CLUB JAN 2018

**TCR MIDDLE EAST
Final results QUALIFYING**

**17 - 20 January 2018
North - 3200 mtr.**


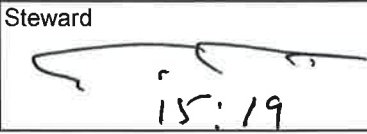

Pos	Nbr	Name	Fastest	In	Gap	Diff	Laps	Km/h
1	10	Giacomo ALTOE	1:14.569	8			13	154.49
2	8	Luca ENGSTLER	1:14.673	7	0.104	0.104	12	154.27
3	70	Mat'o HOMOLA	1:14.782	8	0.213	0.109	13	154.05
4	39	Florian THOMA	1:14.851	16	0.282	0.069	16	153.91
5	13	Kai JORDAN	1:15.021	12	0.452	0.170	15	153.56
6	21	Jordi ORIOLA	1:15.263	3	0.694	0.242	12	153.06
7	23	Giovanni ALTOE	1:15.267	9	0.698	0.004	15	153.06
8	44	Lorenzo VEGLIA	1:15.305	3	0.736	0.038	13	152.98
9	32	Alberto VESCOVI	1:15.619	10	1.050	0.314	16	152.34
10	9	Costas PAPANTONIS	1:16.168	6	1.599	0.549	10	151.24
11	17	Martin RYBA	1:16.212	13	1.643	0.044	18	151.16

Fastest time : 1:14.569 in lap 8 by nbr. 10 : Giacomo ALTOE ()

Publication-time

Results and lap times : www.getraceresults.com

Timekeeping by : Time Service BV - Holland

Steward  15:18	Steward  15:19	Steward 	RICHARD MILLE
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