

THILENIUS GROUP

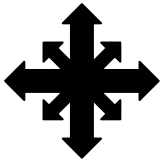
Podium Finish for THILENIUS GROUP in 43rd DMV 4 Stunden Rennen



Hey! On April 7, I returned to Germany for the 43rd running of the DMV 4 Stunden Rennen at the legendary Nurburgring. The race marked the start of my second season with **Aston Martin** and an opportunity, with my co-drivers Tony Richards and Jürgen Kroner, to get up to speed in the **GT8** prior to the ADAC Zurich Nurburgring 24 Hour. We started sixth and overcame a penalty to finish on the podium in the SP8 class.

The competitiveness of the SP8 class has stepped up dramatically from last year with very quick cars from Ferrari, Lamborghini, Audi, BMW, Porsche and Lexus. I was anxious to see how the **Aston Martin** would measure up to our rivals. I drove the **GT8** in 2017 and Jürgen drove the **GT8** at the first VLN race of 2018, so Tony went out first when free practice started on Friday. After four laps, I took over from Tony and went to work getting myself up to speed. My pace was good showing all the time I spent reviewing video over the winter had paid off. I felt comfortable, if not completely relaxed, working through traffic and the caution flags to post a 9:05.

Despite dire predictions over the past two weeks, the weather dawned clear and cool Saturday morning. Qualifying started promptly at 10:30 and we nominated Jürgen to start the session followed by Tony and then me. Traffic and cautions limited Jürgen's ability to go for a quick time, but Tony showed significant improvement from his practice times. I had traffic on my first lap, but found a relatively clear second lap to qualify the **GT8** sixth in SP8 with an 8:55.289.



THILENIUS GROUP



After qualifying, the **Aston Martin Test Centre** team prepped the **GT8** for the race and decided I would start. The cold weather made getting heat into our **Dunlop** tires a big challenge on the slow pace lap around the Nordschleife, but the grip felt good as I took the green for the fast run down to the Mercedes Arena. I passed the #135 Lexus RCF to take fifth in class and then lost and gained positions in almost every corner before the field settled down to single file entering Hatzenbach. For the rest of my stint I worked hard to make up positions in a train of cars including an SP8T BMW M4, an SP10 Mercedes AMG-GT4 driven by my old co-driver Alex Kolb, an SP8 BMW M3 and some Cup 2 Porsche

911 GT3 cars. All of these cars had one thing in common; they were fast in a straight line. The **GT8** makes most of its speed in the corners, so I had to keep the pressure up in the corners to build a gap to stay ahead on the long Döttinger Höhe straight. By the end of my stint, I had worked my way through most of the cars and headed to the pit lane to turn the car over to Tony.

The **Aston Martin** crew executed a great pit stop. Unfortunately, I soon discovered I had gone too quickly in a 60 kmph zone. I was pushing hard so it is not surprising I missed a 60 kmph zone flag, but I cannot afford to make mistakes like that in the 24 hour. Tony served my 45-second stop-and-go penalty and had a brilliant stint. The combination of Tony's speed and attrition moved the **GT8** into third in SP8. Jürgen held position throughout his stint and took the car to the checkered flag, still third in class.

Starting the season with a podium finish in the DMV 4 Stunden Rennen is awesome! There are some quick cars in SP8 this year, but I am confident we can bring home a great result for **Aston Martin** in the ADAC Zurich Nurburgring 24 Hour next month.

Follow the progress of **THILENIUS GROUP** and the **Aston Martin GT8** on the official Nurburgring 24 Hour website at www.24h-rennen.de and on the English language live stream on Radio LeMans at www.radiolemans.co. Alternately, you still have time to join the 200,000 racing fans from all over the world and see the race in person. The first round is on me (after the race)!

About THILENIUS GROUP

THILENIUS GROUP, LLC based in California provides vehicle dynamics engineering, motorsports and sports marketing services. With over 30 years experience engineering vehicle dynamics at the OEM level, road racing motorsports and sports marketing, THILENIUS GROUP can help you reach your goals. Information about THILENIUS GROUP services is available at www.thileniusgroup.com. Latest updates available on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ThileniusGroup and Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ThileniusGroup>.