



Hey! It has been a few months since my last update. I'll try to get everyone caught up on my adventures in 2015.

In January, I left Hyundai to start my own business, THILENIUS GROUP, LLC. Through my new business venture, I am offering vehicle dynamics engineering, motorsports and sports marketing services. After 30 years in the automotive industry, the last few months have been a whole new adventure. I am enjoying the increased freedom while I set up my new business and line up clients. Work is starting to pick up and I should have my website running in a few weeks.

After 10 years in the Grand Am / IMSA Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge and with my new business venture, it was necessary to re-assess my motorsports activities for 2015. We all know I am not smart enough to quit driving. But, since my financial situation is less defined than it has been in the past, I decided not to make a full season commitment to the Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge. I do hope to run a Continental race or two this season to keep my streak alive for another year.

The increased flexibility of running my own business and not having a full season commitment to race in North America has given me the chance to pursue my long time goal of racing in Europe. To that end, I am very pleased to announce I have signed with Rotek Racing to compete in the 2015 ADAC Zurich 24 Hour Race at the legendary Nurburgring in Germany. At over 20 kilometers in length with more than 150 corners, 300 meters of elevation change and constantly the changing weather conditions in the Eiffel Mountains, the Nurburgring is simply the most challenging race track in the world. I cannot think of a better place to get my initiation to racing in Europe!

Given the difficulty of the track, it is understandable drivers must prove they are qualified to race on the Nurburgring before they are allowed to enter the ADAC Zurich 24 Hour Race. I have 20 days of experience at the Nurburgring developing vehicles as part of the Industry Pool, but to prove my skills I will be traveling to Germany to complete a required classroom and driving test at the Nurburgring on April 10 and will enter the 6 hour ADAC Qualifying Race for the 24 Hour on April 11-12. Successful completion of the school and qualifying race will qualify me to run in the 24 hour race in May. Even drivers with Formula 1 and World Touring Car Championship experience are being forced to attend the school and meet the driving qualifications, so I do not feel too bad about being treated like a rookie.

Needless to say, I am extremely excited to be racing at the Nurburgring. The past few weeks have been busy with training to get into shape and working with Rotek Racing to define all the requirements to enter the ADAC Zurich 24 Hour Race. If things go according to plan, I will be driving a V5 class BMW Z4 in the qualifying race and will race an Audi TT-RS in the quicker SP4T class for the 24 hour. Stay tuned for updates.

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