



For Release: IMMEDIATE

Contact: **Bill Cobb**

BMW of North America Motorsport Press Officer
215-431-7223 (cell) / billcobbcommunications@yahoo.com

Oleg Satanovsky

BMW of North America Product and Technology Spokesperson
201-414-8694 (cell) / oleg.satanovsky@bmwna.com

Thomas Plucinsky

BMW of North America Motorsport Communications
201-406-4801 (cell) / thomas.plucinsky@bmwna.com

Kathi Lauterbach

Rahal Letterman Lanigan, VP of Communications
317-297-8064 (office) / 317-447-4337 (cell) / klauterbach@rahal.com

**BMW Team RLL Finishes Second in Michelin GT Challenge at VIR;
Bill Auberlen makes IMSA History with 61st Victory.**

Woodcliff Lake, N.J. – Aug. 22, 2020 . . . BMW Team RLL drivers Connor De Phillippi and Bruno Spengler shared the duo's first ever podium with a second-place finish in today's Michelin GT Challenge at VIR. The pair, driving the No. 25 BMW M8 GTE, completed 85 laps around Virginia International Raceway in the two-hour-and-forty-minute race, finishing 3.5 seconds behind the winning No. 3 Corvette. Teammates John Edwards and Jesse Krohn fell victim to a mechanical issue early in the race and ultimately finished 19 laps down.

The story of the day and the 2020 IMSA seasons so far was the victory in the GTD class by Bill Auberlen and Robby Foley in the No. 96 Turner Motorsport BMW M6 GT3. The win marked Auberlen's 61st IMSA victory and moves the driver synonymous with The Ultimate Driving Machine® to the top of the standings in all-time IMSA victories. Today's race marked Auberlen's 443rd race start in a BMW, also a record.



An elated Auberlen stated, “I am humbled to own this record and dedicate it to my mom and dad. My thanks to BMW for having the faith in me to sign me back in 1996. I have been lucky to have many great co-drivers and Robby (Foley) was the man today, driving two great stints and making it look easy. To everyone at Turner Motorsport, my second home, I’m delighted to have shared this with you all. Now, let’s go see about win number 62.”

“Today was quite a day for Bill and BMW of North America’s racing programs,” **said Victor Leleu, BMW NA Motorsport Manager**. “Bill has been an integral part of our motorsport team through the years and we could not be happier for him to have achieved this record. There is no one better.”

Up next is the TireRack.com Grand Prix at Michelin Raceway Road Atlanta on Saturday, Sept. 5. The 6-hour race will take the green flag at 11:35 a.m. and will be broadcast on NBC Sports Gold Track Pass streaming service beginning at 11:30 a.m. Follow us on Twitter @BMWUSARacing for news from the pit box and get live scoring and in-car camera views at IMSA.com.

Connor De Phillippi, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE (P2): “It feels great to get our first podium finish. We drove hard and clean to put ourselves in a position to fight for the win and at the checkered flag were only one step away from the top of the podium. We’ll soon get Bruno (Spengler) his first IMSA win.”

Bruno Spengler, driver No. 25 BMW M8 GTE (P2): “I entered the race with only very few laps of practice and had to really focus. Connor (De Phillippi) did a great job and when I got in the car my target was clear – to finish on the podium. I found my rhythm, but the competition did not make it easy. I am delighted with our effort.”

BMW Group In America

BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars NA, LLC began distributing vehicles in 2003. The BMW Group in the United States has grown to include marketing, sales, and financial service organizations for the BMW brand of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, the MINI brand, and Rolls-



Royce Motor Cars; Designworks, a strategic design consultancy based in California; technology offices in Silicon Valley and Chicago, and various other operations throughout the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is the BMW Group global center of competence for BMW X models and manufactures the X3, X4, X5, X6 and X7 Sports Activity Vehicles. The BMW Group sales organization is represented in the U.S. through networks of 349 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 144 BMW motorcycle retailers, 118 MINI passenger car dealers, and 38 Rolls-Royce Motor Car dealers. BMW (US) Holding Corp., the BMW Group's sales headquarters for North America, is located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing

BMW's partner, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, based in Hilliard, Ohio and co-owned by three-time IndyCar Champion and 1986 Indianapolis 500 winner Bobby Rahal, former CBS Late Show host David Letterman and Mi-Jack co-owner Mike Lanigan, has been competing for almost three decades. Prior to the start of their 29th season of competition in 2020, the team had compiled 51 victories, 62 poles, 189 podium finishes, three series championships (1992, 2010, 2011) and claimed an Indianapolis 500 victory (Buddy Rice in 2004). In 2009 the team joined BMW of North America to campaign the new BMW

M3 in the American Le Mans Series. The following year the team won both the Manufacturer and Team Championships in the GT category and swept all three GT titles - Manufacturer, Team and Driver – in 2011. In 2012, the team finished second in the Team Championship and third in the Manufacturer Championship and in 2013, the team finished second in the Driver, Team and Manufacturer Championship. Since 2014, BMW Team RLL has competed in the GTLM class of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship with a two-car program and has brought their total to 21 wins – including the 2019 and 2020 Rolex 24 At Daytona endurance races, 28 poles and 79 podium finishes as well as a second place finish in the Manufacturer, Team and Driver championships in 2015 and 2017.

#

Journalist note: Information about BMW Group and its products in the USA is available to journalists on-line at www.bmwgroupusanews.com and www.press.bmwna.com.

