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“China Challenge”: The Volkswagen ID. R on the “Road to Heaven”

- Romain Dumas (F) to drive the Volkswagen ID. R on the Tianmen Shan Big Gate Road
- Unique route with 99 corners and a climb of 1,200 metres
- Gaming competition planned to determine virtual record

Wolfsburg (Germany) – The fully-electric Volkswagen ID. R will take on another special challenge in September 2019. Romain Dumas (F) will be back at the wheel of the 500-kW electric sports car for the “China Challenge” on the Tianmen Shan Big Gate Road – a unique stretch of tarmac, featuring 99 corners, which winds its way up Tianmen Mountain, located roughly 1,500 kilometres southwest of Beijing. As no official record exists for the eleven-kilometre mountain road, which is not accessible to public transport, Volkswagen China will run a competition prior to the record attempt, in which participants can set their own virtual time on the Tianmen Shan Big Gate Road. Dumas will then attempt to better the time of the fastest participant under real conditions in September.



Dr Stephan Wöllenstein, CEO of Volkswagen China, explains the new “China Challenge” for the ID. R at a press conference

enhance that expertise, and can incorporate it in the assembly of electric production models.”

Volkswagen Motorsport Director Sven Smeets: “Tianmen has a mystical status in China, where it is known as ‘Heaven’s Gate’. The route is one of the most extraordinary and difficult roads in the world – another special challenge for the ID. R. Our goal is to set a new milestone for electric

Dr. Stephan Wöllenstein, Member of the Board of Management of the Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand and CEO Volkswagen China: “The Volkswagen ID. R is an icon, which perfectly embodies our passion for E-mobility and our expertise in the development of electric drive technology. We can use the experience gained in the field of motorsport to further

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vehicles and, in doing so, to support Volkswagen's E-strategy in China, which is really picking up speed this year."

The "China Challenge" on Tianmen will be a journey into the unknown – even for Pikes Peak winner Dumas: "So far, I only know the road from photos and a few videos," says the 41-year-old Frenchman. "The surrounding area is remarkable, like a film set. The route is very winding, extremely narrow in places, and very uneven. It is certainly going to be a special experience. I am looking forward to this new challenge."

The Road to Heaven: A tourist magnet

The narrow Tianmen Shan Big Gate Road is a popular tourist attraction. It winds its way through one of the most primeval mountain landscapes in the world. Also known as Tongtian Avenue (Road to Heaven), the route is used by buses to transport visitors up Tianmen Mountain. It starts in the valley at about 200 metres above sea level and ends at an altitude of roughly 1,300 metres. The mountain's summit is at 1,519 metres above sea level.

Next target: lap record on the famous Nürburgring-Nordschleife

The Volkswagen ID. R, with which Romain Dumas set records at two famous hill climbs in June 2018 – first at the "Pikes Peak International Hill Climb" and then at the "Goodwood Festival of Speed" – is powered by two electric engines generating a total output of 500 kW (680 PS) and accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in just 2.25 seconds. Before travelling to China in September, Dumas and the record-breaking ID. R will first set their sights on a new lap record for electric cars on the famous Nürburgring-Nordschleife.

About the Volkswagen brand:

The Volkswagen Passenger Cars brand is present in more than 150 markets throughout the world and produces vehicles at over 50 locations in 14 countries. In 2017, Volkswagen delivered 6.24 million vehicles including bestselling models such as the Golf, Tiguan, Jetta or Passat. Currently, 195,878 people work for Volkswagen across the globe. The brand also has over 10,000 dealerships with 86,000 employees. Volkswagen is forging ahead consistently with the further development of automobile production. E-mobility, smart mobility and the digital transformation of the brand are the key strategic topics for the future.
