WORLD CAR AWARDS

Established 2004

***THE ROAD TO WORLD CAR* 2017**

Celebrating the best of today – Inspiring the best of tomorrow

Paris – September 29, 2016 – For Immediate Release

The journey on **The Road to World Car** began today at the Paris International Motor Show (Le Mondial de l'automobile) with the celebration of the reigning 2016 World Luxury Car winner – the BMW 7 Series - during a champagne media reception held within the BMW Group's exhibit.

Dr. Ian Robertson (HonDSc), Member of the Board of Management, Sales and Marketing BMW, Sales Channels BMW Group said, "We are delighted and honoured that the BMW 7 Series carries the prestigious title of World Luxury Car 2016. The sixth generation of the BMW 7 Series sets new benchmarks in the luxury segment: Customers are especially appreciative of the way the 7 Series combines superb modern luxury with outstanding driving dynamics and many ground-breaking innovations. The success story continues: For the very first time, we are now expanding our offering for the 7 Series lineup under the label of the BMW M and BMW i brands."

The Road to World Car follows our 73 international automotive jurors as they test-drive and tell the stories of the 2017 nominated cars in five categories prior to voting by secret ballot in January 2017. The official list of nominees for the World Car of the Year, World Luxury / Performance Car, World Green Car, World Car Design of the Year and the inaugural World Urban Car can be found on our web site: wcoty.com. ***The Road to World Car*** makes a stop in Los Angeles for test-drives in November, then at the Geneva International Motor Show in March when the top three finalists in each category are declared prior to the winners' announcement at a high-profile awards ceremony at the New York International Auto Show on April 13, 2017. The list of all nominated cars follows.

2017 marks the 11th year of World Car's partnership with the New York show, and the fourth consecutive year that the World Car Awards have retained their ranking as the **No.1** automotive awards program in the world in terms of media reach. "The New York International Auto Show is proud of the tradition it has built with the World Car Awards to recognize the 'best of the best' in the auto industry, said Mark Schienberg, president of the New York International Auto Show. "Over the past 11 years this awards program has grown to become one of the most coveted honors for the world's automakers."

World Car has a dual mission of celebrating the best of today and inspiring the best ideas for tomorrow. Our role is not just to reward current achievement but to also provide insights into the future.

The World Car community brings together a large cross section of experts and professionals from every segment of the automotive industry who serve as an important resource focused on excellence and innovation on a global scale.

The Road Ahead initiative was created in 2014 with our long-standing partner Prime Research. ***The Road Ahead*** identifies emerging global trends throughout the year, via newsletters, trend studies and related initiatives that recognize innovation. The annual **Global Trends Report**, co-presented by Prime Research and Autoneum annually at the New York International Auto Show is the culmination of research and insights across six months.

During the reception, Peter Lyon, chairman of the WCA Steering Committee, welcomed back the Swiss-based firm Autoneum as a presenting partner of the 2017 World Car Awards for the third consecutive year. "Autoneum's commitment to innovation and excellence on a global scale makes them a good fit for the World Car Awards and our ***Road Ahead*** platform," he explained.

Martin Hirzel, CEO of Autoneum, further explained: "For Autoneum as the market leader for acoustic and thermal management with 50 locations around the world, the global World Car Awards are the ideal sponsorship partner. Together we aspire to promote innovation in the automotive industry and thus shape the future of mobility."

As the global nature of the industry continues to strengthen, and the pace of innovation continues to accelerate, World Car is proud to be a part of this amazing journey along with the New York International Auto Show, Prime Research, Autoneum, Bridgestone Corporation, Newspress (media partner) and KPMG (vote tabulation).

THE ROAD TO WORLD CAR:
BEGINS IN PARIS SEPT. 29, 2016. ENDS IN NEW YORK APRIL 13, 2017.

FOLLOW OUR 70+ INTERNATIONAL JURORS : wcoty.com #wcoty

For additional information either visit our web site (www.wcoty.com) or please contact Beth Rhind, Executive Manager, E: beth@wcoty.com

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BACKGROUND

World Car Awards
Now entering their 13th year, the annual World Car Awards are the number one awards program in the world for the fourth consecutive year based on Prime Research's 2016 media report. The awards were inaugurated in 2003, and officially launched in January 2004, to reflect the reality of the global marketplace, as well as to recognize and reward automotive excellence on an international scale. The awards are intended to complement, not compete, with existing national and regional Car of the Year programs.

The awards are administered by a not-for-profit association, under the guidance of a Steering Committee of pre-eminent automotive journalists from Asia, Europe, and North America. Peter Lyon (chair – Japan), Jens Meiners (vice-chair – Germany), Mike Rutherford (vice-chair – UK), Tamara Warren (director – USA), Siddarth Patankar (director – India) and Gerry Malloy (director – Canada and president, WCOTY Association).

New York International Auto Show

Owned and operated by the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association, the New York Auto Show is an awesome combination of new ideas, technological innovation, exceptional concept cars and nearly 1,000 of the latest new cars and trucks. Over one million visitors are expected to visit the show this year to see what is truly possible from the automotive industry.

Important 2017 Auto Show Dates
Automotive Forum: April 11
Press Preview, April 12 & 13 (credentials required)
Public Sneak Preview, Friday, April 14
Public Show Dates, Friday, April 14 – Sunday, April 23

PRIME Research
PRIME Research, a global leader in strategic communication research and consultancy is once again the World Car Awards' research partner. On an annual basis, PRIME Research and the World Car Awards are co-presenting a Global Trends Report at the New York International Auto Show each spring. PRIME Research is a well-trusted research partner for the automotive industry with a broad range of automotive clients. Its full picture approach, which provides strategic benchmark information and SWOT analyses on over 150 brands and over 10,000 different automobile models, sets the standard in automotive media research.

Autoneum
Autoneum, with its headquarters in Winterthur, Switzerland, is the globally leading producer of vehicle acoustics and thermal management systems. The company develops and manufactures components, modules and complete systems for interior and engine bay as well as heatshields and underbody shields. Customers include leading automobile producers in the key markets of Europe, North America, South America and Asia. Autoneum is represented at around 50 locations in over 20 countries and employs more than 11,000 people worldwide, of whom about 5% are in Switzerland. The company is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange (ticker symbol AUTN).

THE ROAD TO THE WORLD CAR

2017 WORLD CAR AWARDS

NOMINATIONS LIST – SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

WORLD CAR OF THE YEAR
Audi A5 / S5 Coupé
Audi Q2
Audi Q5
Buick LaCrosse
Buick Envision
Chevrolet Cruze
Chrysler Pacifica
Fiat/Abarth 124 Spyder
Genesis G80
Honda Civic
Hyundai Elantra
Infiniti Q60
Jaguar F-PACE
Kia Cadenza
Kia Rio
Kia Sportage
Mazda CX-9
SEAT Ateca
Skoda Kodiaq
SsangYong Tivoli Air / XLV
Subaru Impreza
Toyota C-HR
Volkswagen Tiguan

WORLD LUXURY / PERFORMANCE CAR 2017
Audi R8 Spyder
BMW 5 Series
Bentley Bentayga
Cadillac CT6
Cadillac XT5

Genesis G90
Honda/Acura NSX
Lexus LC500
Lincoln Continental
Mercedes-Benz E-Class
Mercedes-AMG Roadster
Porsche Boxster Cayman
Range Rover Evoque Convertible
Volvo S90 / V90

WORLD URBAN CAR 2017
BMW i3 (94 Ah)
Citroën C3
Citroën E-MEHARI
Ford KA+
Smart Brabus Range
Smart Cabriolet
Suzuki Baleno
Suzuki Ignis

WORLD GREEN CAR 2017
Audi Q7 e-tron 3.0 TDI quattro
BMW 740e iPerformance
Chevrolet Bolt
Chevrolet Malibu Hybrid
Honda Clarity Fuel-Cell Car
Hyundai Ioniq
Kia Niro Hybrid
Mercedes-Benz GLC 350 e (Plug-In Hybrid)
Tesla Model X
Toyota RAV4
Toyota Prius Prime

WORLD CAR DESIGN OF THE YEAR 2017
-. All of the World Car of the Year entries automatically qualify for the design award.
-. In addition, the following stand-alone entries are also nominated as candidates

Mercedes-Benz S-Class Cabriolet