

## A1 Team France, Round 3, Malaysia, practice sessions

### A great start

Today, A1 Team France began its Malaysian weekend on the Sepang circuit, where the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of the 2008-09 A1 World Cup of Motorsport Championship is taking place, in the best possible fashion.

Nicolas Prost set the quickest time in the 2 rookie sessions. The 4-times world champion's son, who drove the car at Chengdu 2 weeks ago, began the task of setting up the A1 single-seater.

Loïc Duval took over for the first free session for his first drive in the Ferrari-designed car on a dry track. He soon got to grips with it and was among the front-runners all session. He finished fourth overall despite a clutch problem that prevented him from setting the fastest time at the end of the session. It bodes well for the next 2 days.

**Olivier Panis, sporting director:** *"We've made a great start to our weekend, with the best lap of Nicolas in the rookie session. The quality of his technical feedback helped us to progress in our programme right from the word go, which is very important. Loïc was soon on the pace. A few minor technical glitches prevented him from getting as much track time as we'd have liked, so we've still got a few more things to evaluate during the second free session. For the moment everything's under control!"*

**Loïc Duval, driver:** *"I couldn't wait to drive the new A1 GP car on a dry track for the first time. And I wasn't disappointed! The grip's good and the car's very quick. The high temperature caused a few problems under braking, but we've solved them. Clutch glitches in the closing minutes prevented me from setting the quickest time. Overall we're happy with our level of performance. Both driver and car still have to find a little more speed! All very positive really."*

**Nicolas Prost, driver:** *"The two rookie sessions went off well and I got to grips with the track very quickly. The Sepang circuit's got nothing in common with Chengdu, and we were able to start our technical programme right away. I think we've found some good set-ups. We're as competitive as ever and we should be able to fight at the front again this weekend."*

The qualifying session will be broadcasted tomorrow on AB Moteurs at 2:00pm.  
Both races will be broadcasted on Sunday on AB Moteurs (sprint race, 2:00pm) and on NT1 (feature race, 3:00pm).