



ASTON MARTIN

## **ASTON MARTIN WINS DRIVERS AND MANUFACTURERS' WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2020**

- **Aston Martin crowns its most successful GT campaign with another world title**
- **Danes Nicki Thiim and Marco Sørensen clinch second GT WEC Drivers' title**
- **British sportscar brand beats works Porsche and Ferrari teams to WEC double**

*Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> November, Bahrain:* GT World Champion manufacturer Aston Martin has won the 2019-20 GT FIA World Endurance Drivers' Championship with Nicki Thiim (DEN) and Marco Sørensen (DEN), in the season finale – the 8 Hours of Bahrain – on Saturday.

Aston Martin's all-conquering Vantage GTE had already clinched the GT Manufacturers world championship with a famous victory at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in both the GTE Pro and Am classes in September, before Thiim (DEN) and Sørensen (DEN) became GT World champions for the second time having previously won it in 2016.

This marks the most successful racing season for Aston Martin since 1959, and the first time that its cars have won two world titles and both classes at Le Mans in the same campaign, in a season that saw it beat arch-rivals Porsche and Ferrari in all the major Pro competitions.

For the Danes, fifth place in the GTE Pro class in Bahrain's finale was enough to give them a final total of 172 points, 12 ahead of team-mate Maxime Martin (BEL), who finishes the season as vice champion, having won the GTE Pro class of the 24 Hours of Le Mans alongside Alex Lynn (GB). The Belgian finished fourth in Bahrain alongside Richard Westbrook (GB) who stood in for Lynn in Saturday's race.

In only its second WEC season – and the longest in the sport's history thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic – the Vantage GTE earned eight class victories and four in Pro, three of which were secured by Thiim and Sørensen in the 6 Hours of Fuji (JAP), the first 8 Hours of Bahrain and the Lone Star 6 Hours at COTA (US).

Those wins, coupled with their second place in the 6 Hours of Spa, third at Le Mans and a fifth place in China where they set the pace before misfortune struck, allowed them to fend-off a resurgence from their team-mates in the #97 Vantage. Martin and Lynn recorded a string of four podiums before their brilliant win at Le Mans.

“This feels incredible,” said Thiim. “We have worked so hard for what feels like absolutely forever to win this championship. It is all I have thought about for months and it means everything to myself and Marco. The Vantage GTE has been the perfect car to race all season, and I am so proud that we are the ones that get to call ourselves champions for winning with it. I am now a two-time world champion with Aston Martin, and that’s something that will stay with me for the rest of my life. Thank you to the team, to Aston Martin, WEC and all the fans. What more can I say?”

Sørensen added: “This season has been so incredibly tough, both on and off the track, and to have finally won the world championship is testament to all the people in the team that have given us such an amazing car to race. The Vantage has allowed us to fight at the front, pretty much all year, which is what you dream of as a driver because then all you have to do is race hard. We have proved this year that we can win races and championships if you give us a car like this.”

President Aston Martin Racing David King said: “We have known for a long time just how much potential was in the Aston Martin Vantage GTE. From its very inception in 2018, it was developed to win world championships and it proved it at Le Mans in September. But to win so many accolades in only its second season of racing is something very, very special. This level of attainment happens rarely in motorsport, and you cannot overstate the significance of the achievement. We as a brand are immensely proud of what Aston Martin Racing has accomplished this season and we would like to extend our thanks to the drivers, the team, our competitors and the FIA and WEC for a fantastic championship well played.”

- Ends -

### **About Aston Martin Lagonda:**

Aston Martin Lagonda is a luxury automotive group focused on the creation of exclusive cars and SUVs. The iconic Aston Martin brand fuses the latest technology, exceptional hand craftsmanship and timeless design to produce models including the Vantage, DB11, DBS Superleggera and the new SUV, DBX. Based in Gaydon, England, Aston Martin Lagonda designs, creates and exports cars which are sold in 51 countries around the world.

Lagonda was founded in 1899 and Aston Martin in 1913. The two brands came together in 1947 when both were purchased by the late Sir David Brown.

[www.astonmartin.com/media](http://www.astonmartin.com/media)



### **Global Headquarters Gaydon**

Kevin Watters  
Director of Communications  
Mobile: +44 (0)7764 386683  
E-Mail: [kevin.watters@astonmartin.com](mailto:kevin.watters@astonmartin.com)

Simon Strang  
Motorsport Press Officer  
Mobile : +44 (0)7554 436372  
E-mail: [simon.strang@astonmartin.com](mailto:simon.strang@astonmartin.com)

Grace Barnie  
Manager, Corporate Communications  
Mobile: +44 (0)7880 903490  
E-Mail: [grace.barnie@astonmartin.com](mailto:grace.barnie@astonmartin.com)

Jessica Jay  
Press Officer, Product Communications  
Mobile: ++44 (0)7825 863880  
E-Mail: [jessica.jay@astonmartin.com](mailto:jessica.jay@astonmartin.com)

Raphael Loheac-Derboulle  
Press Officer, Lifestyle Communications  
Mobile: +44 (0)7801 265126  
E-Mail: [raphaele.loheac@astonmartin.com](mailto:raphaele.loheac@astonmartin.com)

Sophie Tobin  
Press Officer  
Mobile: +44 (0)7812 679785  
E-Mail: [sophie.tobin@astonmartin.com](mailto:sophie.tobin@astonmartin.com)

Scott Fisher  
Heritage Communications Manager  
Mobile: +44 (0)7841 912225  
E-Mail: [scott.fisher1@astonmartin.com](mailto:scott.fisher1@astonmartin.com)

### **The Americas**

Nathan Hoyt  
Head of Public Relations  
Mobile: +1 949 707 7747  
E-Mail: [nathan.hoyt@astonmartin.com](mailto:nathan.hoyt@astonmartin.com)

Valentine Oldham  
Mobile: +1 617 721 5392  
E-Mail: [valentine@valentinepr.com](mailto:valentine@valentinepr.com)

### **Continental Europe**

Tina Brenner  
PR Manager EU  
Mobile: +49 (0) 172 8232375  
E-Mail: [tina.brenner@astonmartin.com](mailto:tina.brenner@astonmartin.com)

Judith Richter  
PR Executive Europe  
Tel: +49 (0) 69 77075 2018  
Mobile: +49 (0) 162 258 1360  
E-Mail: [judith.richter@astonmartin.com](mailto:judith.richter@astonmartin.com)

### **China**

Leith Gao  
Head of Marketing and Communications  
Tel: +86 138 1781 8286  
E-Mail: [leith.gao@astonmartin.com](mailto:leith.gao@astonmartin.com)

### **Asia Pacific**

Andreas Rosén  
Marketing and Communications Manager  
Mobile: +65 9618 7742  
E-Mail: [andreas.rosen@astonmartin.com](mailto:andreas.rosen@astonmartin.com)

Sarah McDonald  
PR - Australia  
Mobile: +61 438 115 108  
E-Mail: [sarah.mcdonald@astonmartin.com](mailto:sarah.mcdonald@astonmartin.com)

### **Middle East**

Ramzi Atat  
Marcoms Senior Manager  
Mobile: +971 (50) 5187778  
E-Mail: [ramzi.atat@astonmartin.com](mailto:ramzi.atat@astonmartin.com)

Sandra Schneider  
Tel: +971 50 524 0120  
E-Mail: [sandra@schneider-pr.net](mailto:sandra@schneider-pr.net)