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Bad luck for Franz Engstler in Bathurst – Birthday boy Joey Hand looks forward to the presentation of the BMW Z4 GTE.

Whether in the DTM, the American Le Mans Series, or countless other championships: week after week BMW teams and drivers around the world do battle for points, victories and titles. Away from the track too, members of the large BMW Motorsport family around the world are also creating headlines. The "BMW Motorsport News" now allows us to regularly summarise all the action for you in a compact and informative manner. This way, you are always up to speed.

Birthday party for Hand – and the BMW Z4 GTE.

Next Tuesday the BMW Z4 GTE will be launched officially in Daytona (US) as BMW Motorsport's new contender in the American Le Mans Series for the 2013 season. One of the drivers will be Joey Hand. In addition to driving in the DTM for BMW Team RBM, the American will again race for BMW Team RLL in the ALMS. On Sunday Hand is celebrating his 34th birthday.

Three question for… Joey Hand.

Joey, what are you expecting from the new BMW Z4 GTE?
Joey Hand: "To be honest, I don't know what to exactly expect, because I've never driven a BMW Z4 in any configuration before this season. But it definitely looks very fast. I've found through experience cars that look fast usually are. I can't wait to drive it."

In 2013 you're also racing in both the DTM and the ALMS. How will you manage this workload?
Hand: "Travelling has never yet been a problem for me. Furthermore, I've got used to driving in many races in different cars in the space of a year. As always, I love driving in the ALMS to an unbelievable extent. I enjoy every minute on the racetrack and in the company of my colleagues from BMW Team RLL. We've become a family over the years. I'm still learning things in the ALMS that also help me in the DTM. I'm looking forward to my second season there because I'm able to take everything I learned in my debut season into my second year. That means I'll be much better at finding my feet right from the start this time around."

How do you spend your birthday?
Hand: "Well, the new season is starting soon, so right now I enjoy my time at home with my family. I spend my birthday with my wife and my two kids. For me it is important to relax and gather new strength for the weeks and months to come. Already on Monday I am travelling to Daytona for the BMW Z4 GTE presentation. That will be the first highlight of the 2013 season."

DTM season 2013 kicks off on 9th April.

Round about one month before the first race of the season in Hockenheim (DE) the DTM will present itself to its fans. The first test day at the Hockenheimring on 9th

April will be open for spectators, who can watch the action on track from one of the stands. On top of that journalists are offered the chance to meet the drivers in a relaxed atmosphere.

Bad luck for Engstler at the Bathurst 12 Hours.

The Bathurst 12 Hour (AU) was held under an unlucky star for Engstler Motorsport. An accident forced the team to retire its BMW Z4 GT3 after just two hours. “It’s a shame we had to leave the race this early”, team manager Kurt Treml said. “Anyway, the weekend in Bathurst was a great experience for our team. We got along better and better with the BMW Z4 GT3 over the course of the weekend and our drivers were able to push harder with every lap of experience, and that is so important here in Bathurst. The fans here were incredible. The whole event was a big party. I don’t think this will be the last time we compete here. We have a score to settle with Mount Panorama.” Winner of the Bathurst 12 Hours was the Mercedes of Erebus Motorsport. Team GWS Personnel celebrated a class win with its BMW 335i.

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