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## AERO GP ANNOUNCES FIRST GRAND PRIX OF 2009

Al Ain in the emirate of Abu Dhabi, UAE, has been chosen by Aero GP organisers to host the first Grand Prix of the 2009 Aero GP air racing series. The Aero GP series of races will be the main event of the prestigious Al Ain Aerobatic Show which will be held from 28 – 31 January 2009.

Aero GP is the only international air racing series with multiple airplanes competing against each other at the same time (a sport called “pylon racing”). The series has been growing in popularity for five years and is already televised in hundreds of millions of homes worldwide, thus prompting the partnership with the Al Ain Aerobatic Show, which has become one of the most well-known and well-attended air shows in the world.

This is the first time that an Aero GP race has been held in the UAE region and is believed to be the first time in history that a pylon race has been held in the Middle East, proving that Al Ain is a pioneer in aviation and sport.

Aero GP is a new motorsport series unlike any other, combining three highly difficult disciplines of sport. Each Aero GP consists of the following three events:

1. Air Race – an air race featuring six aircraft in the circuit at the same time racing against each other just metres above the ground in the fastest motorsport in the world.
2. Air Combat – a demanding discipline where two pilots compete head to head in a battle for air supremacy, trying to score enough hits on their opponent for the victory.
3. Stunts – various stunts are selected, ranging from aerobatics to limbo flying. In Al Ain, the event that was selected will test the pilots in a real target bombing competition.

**Jeff Zaltman, Managing Director of Aero GP**, said, “*We are extremely proud to be a part of the Al Ain Aerobatic Show, which has become a major player in the international air show calendar. Together with Al Ain we are making history in the region and we are excited to showcase our sport to a new audience. Al Ain is unique because it is one of the few air shows in the world that regularly includes a competitive sports element. Aero GP is air sport at its most competitive, so Al Ain is a perfect and visionary location for Aero GP.*”

**HH Sheikh Sultan bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Chairman, ADTA** said, *“We are consistently reviewing our products and events, even the most successful, to see how we can improve them and add new dimensions to maintain and enhance their appeal. The delivery of product excellence extends to every ADTA undertaking and has been brought to bear on the 2009 Al Ain Aerobatic Show.”*

A representative of ADTA added, *“With the addition of Aero GP we have gone a step further in generating truly global interest for this event and the emirate of Abu Dhabi.”*

For more information visit [www.aero-gp.com](http://www.aero-gp.com).

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

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#### **About Flying Aces**

Flying Aces Ltd, based in London UK, owns and manages global media rights connected to top-level aviation sport. Most of the property rights are fully developed in-house while others are managed on behalf of other rights holders. Flying Aces is the organiser of the internationally-televised Aero GP air racing series and the next World Aerobatic Championships which will be held at Silverstone Racing Circuit. In addition, through a media partnership with the air sports governing body, the FAI, Flying Aces produces a television series covering the major global air sports events and Championships called 'Breitling Airsports World' which is broadcast internationally.

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#### **About Al Ain Aerobatic Show**

Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority (ADTA), the body behind the Al Ain spectacle, is held under the patronage of HH General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces