

News Release

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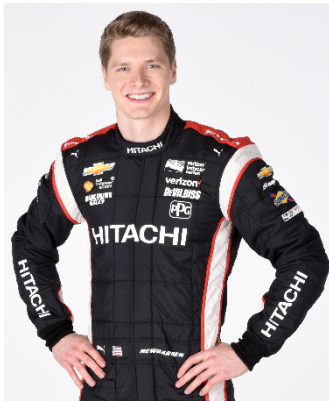
Start of the 2018 Verizon IndyCar Series New Hitachi-Sponsored Driver Josef Newgarden Aims to Defend His Championship

Tokyo, March 7, 2018 —Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd., partner of Team Penske, whose No. 1 machine is sponsored by the Hitachi Group, will take part in the 2018 Verizon IndyCar Series that commences on March 11. Josef Newgarden, a driver newly sponsored by Hitachi for the 2018 IndyCar Series, will aim to retain his Series Championship this year.

Newgarden has steadily increased his capabilities since first competing in the full season of the IndyCar Series in 2012, having finished 7th in the Series Championship in 2015, and 4th in 2016. After moving to Team Penske for 2017, he stood on the podium nine times out of 17 races with four victories and won the Series Championship.

The 2018 season will see new universal aero kits introduced for all cars, allowing cars to run closer together and providing for more passing opportunities. As in the 2017 season, there are 17 races that will be held on a mixture of courses. City street courses feature cars running close together, making overtaking difficult, while permanent road courses offer a variety of corners to challenge drivers' techniques, and oval courses deliver powerful high-speed battles. Due to the introduction of the new aero kits and the variety of circuits, this year's IndyCar Series will again be charged with excitement for racing fans. Hitachi will serve as the primary sponsor for eight of the 17 races, where the Hitachi logo will be displayed on the car of the new Hitachi-sponsored driver, Newgarden. As he aims to defend his championship title, his performance will certainly be worth watching.

Hitachi Automotive Systems will continue to use its sponsorship of motorsports, including the Verizon IndyCar Series, to further grow the Hitachi brand and contribute to motorsports.



Josef Newgarden



Test driving in Phoenix in February

■ 2018 IndyCar Series Schedule

- : Hitachi primary-sponsor races

Date	Place
March 11 (Sun.)	● St. Petersburg, Florida
April 7 (Sat.)	Phoenix, Arizona
April 15 (Sun.)	Long Beach, California
April 22 (Sun.)	● Birmingham, Alabama
May 12 (Sat.)	Indianapolis, Indiana
May 27 (Sun.)	Indianapolis, Indiana
June 2 (Sat.)	● Detroit, Michigan
June 3 (Sun.)	● Detroit, Michigan
June 9 (Sat.)	Fort Worth, Texas
June 24 (Sun.)	Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin
July 8 (Sun.)	● Newton, Iowa
July 15 (Sun.)	● Toronto, Canada
July 29 (Sun.)	● Lexington, Ohio
August 19 (Sun.)	● Long Pond, Pennsylvania
August 25 (Sat.)	Madison, Illinois
September 2 (Sun.)	Portland, Oregon
September 16 (Sun.)	Sonoma, California

About Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd.

Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi, Ltd., headquartered in Tokyo, Japan. The company is engaged in the development, manufacture, sales and services of automotive components, transportation related components, industrial machines and systems, and offers a wide range of automotive systems including engine powertrain systems, electric powertrain systems, and integrated vehicle control systems. For more information, please visit the company's website at

<http://www.hitachi-automotive.co.jp/en/>.

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