



Presseausendung, 30.8.2016

8. – 10. September 2016 Red Bull Dolomitenmann Lienz

## **Red Bull Dolomitenmann – Family-organized: the world’s toughest team competition**

Red Bull Dolomitenmann 2016 | 29<sup>th</sup> edition | 8 to 10 September in Lienz | family-organized  
a world-class event

**From 8 to 10 September, mountain runners, paragliders, mountain bikers and kayakers will be battling their way through the Lienz Dolomites yet again. The fact that this successful, challenging team event has been around for 29 years is due to one special family in particular. With the help of the entire town, the Grissmann family organizes the world’s toughest team competition.**

On 10 September, when the starting gun is fired for the 29<sup>th</sup> time at Red Bull Dolomitenmann, the world’s toughest team competition, and thousands of spectators along the course fire on the world’s best athletes, the better part of 500 people will be working hard to ensure that this extraordinary event goes without a hitch. The facts & figures are impressive: 440 athletes, a 60 km course, 4,500 vertical meters to overcome, thousands of fans and spectators, 20 individual events as well as 2 open-air parties. And admission is free. Weeks of work, effort and coordination are required to ensure that an event of this scale is possible year after year. Responsible for all of this is mastermind and organizer Werner Grissmann, who affectionately refers to his entire crew as his “Dolomitenmann family”. What began 29 years ago with an idea that definitely raised a few smiles, has since developed into an international highlight in the extreme-sports calendar and made Lienz in Eastern Tyrol the home of extreme outdoor sports.

The “Dolomitenmann family” consists of a core team of 25 people, who are organized within the auspices of Sportclub Dolomitenmann. At the head of the team is the inventor himself, who, together with his wife Sandra and son Nikolaus, is responsible for overall management of the event. “Whereas other events are organized within firms and purchase many services externally, as the “Dolomitenmann family” our focus is very much on the values and mission you commonly associate with a locally-based club. We try to involve as many local people and businesses as possible, which, in my eyes, is important to guaranteeing long-term success within a region”, continues Grissmann. The tactic has clearly borne fruit, not least because Red Bull Dolomitenmann is now one of the most famous summer events in Austria, and is definitely the tourism “poster child” for this particular region. Aside from the Grissmann family, including Werner, Sandra, Nikolaus and Nina, all of whom are active in the organization, Grissmann’s son-in-law, snowboarder Benjamin Karl, also competes annually for Team Wings for Life and his brother-in-law, Andreas Burger, is responsible for planning TV production. Peter Mayr, who has also been

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part of the event since its inception in 1988, and son Stefan oversee the actual race and timekeeping. The Pramstaller family is even represented on the organizing team by three brothers: Vinzenz is responsible for overall set-up and course branding, Christian is in charge of catering, while Helmut supports Sandra in taking care of guests. Helmut, former World Champion snowboarder, had previously competed in Red Bull Dolomitenmann as a runner and canoer. Yet another actively involved family are the Zimmermanns: Thomas participated for many years as a canoer, then managed the canoeing competition, and is now part of the race-management team. His wife Natascha, together with Fini Kassebacher and Karoline Gander, represents the backbone of the race-office team.

Red Bull Dolomitenmann takes a long-term, sustainable approach to the event, involving as many local fans, businesses and workers as possible, in order to achieve long-term positive benefits for the region of Eastern Tyrol.

“Without roots, no tree can grow towards the sky. And that’s exactly what our great personnel and partners mean to this event. Naturally, at the outset it wasn’t always easy, but the roots held fast and I couldn’t be prouder to have such a great team standing behind me”, states Werner Grissmann.

Complete information about the 29<sup>th</sup> Red Bull Dolomitenmann can be found online at [www.redbulldolomitenmann.com](http://www.redbulldolomitenmann.com).

Photos and video materials are available for download in the Red Bull Content Pool.