



## WORLD-CLASS COMPETITORS AT ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Red Bull Dolomitenmann | 9 September 2017 – Lienz

**The starting gun will fire on the Red Bull Dolomitenmann – the world’s toughest team event - on 9 September for an incredible 30th time. 520 athletes from a total of 20 nations are expected in Lienz this year for the anniversary edition. Among them are World and European Champions, along with Olympic icons such as Belgium’s Maxime Richard, who will be kayaking for the International Bulls team. On 9 September they will all get the chance to prove their international class amid the toughest conditions imaginable and make for a top-class sporting spectacle.**

The Red Bull Dolomitenmann has enjoyed a fearsome reputation for many years now, making it no surprise that the world’s top extreme sportsmen come to take part in the toughest relay contest on the planet. A whole host of top international athletes have signed up to show they belong among the toughest under the sun in the 30th anniversary edition of the event. These include the International Bulls Team of Ahmet Arslan (TUR), Aaron Durogati (ITA), Fabian Rabensteiner (ITA) and Maxime Richard (BEL), along with four recent mountain running world champions.

Ahmet Arslan (TUR), a multiple mountain running European champion, was the world championship runner-up in 2010 and has already won the Red Bull 400 World Title this year. The experienced mountain runner is definitely among the favourites, along with reigning mountain running World Champion Victor Kiplangat (UGA) and the winner of the mountain running classification last year – 2014 World Champion Petro Mamu (ERI). Other World champions such as Joseph Gray (USA) and Stian Angermund-Vik (NOR) can only be ignored at the other competitors’ peril, however. Toni Palzer from defending champions Red Bull may be somewhat of an outsider, but the young Bavarian is determined to make his mark on the event in his third appearance.

Team International Bulls are bolstered this year by Aaron Durogati (ITA). The Italian has been flying since the age of 14 and has been crowned World Champion in paragliding in 2012 among many other successes. In 2016 he finished second in the individual standings, and will be doing everything to win it for his new team this time.

Completing the mountain biking section will be Fabian Rabensteiner from South Tyrol. The 27-year-old has won several national cross country events, has been in the top 10 of the overall standings of the Internazionali d’Italia Mountainbike Series five times, and this year won the bronze medal at the Val di Sole Marathon. Rabensteiner does not have an easy task against rivals such as mountain bike marathon World Champion – and top favourite - Alban Lakata of the Red Bull Team, but the debutant could just spring a surprise.

The final leg will be taken for the team by 2016 whitewater kayak World Champion Maxime Richard. The Belgian demonstrated his massive talent at a young age, becoming junior World and European Champion at the age of 17 and making the 2012 London Olympics. Richard, who will be making his maiden kayaking voyage in the Red Bull Dolomitenmann in the event’s 30th edition, is a major contender in the individual standings. Should his team-mates perform well before him, he could also be in with a good chance of sealing the overall win for the International Bulls. Among those standing in his way are regular contestant and seven-time individual standings winner Harald Hudetz. The Austrian helped Team Red Bull to a win in a dramatic finish in 2016 – he will be raring to go again this year.

Werner Grissmann says on the top-class starting field: “I am very proud of the development of the Red Bull Dolomitenmann and its presence on the international sporting scene. That we can have World Champions, European Champions and Olympic medal winners starting speaks for itself, I think. The Dolomites attract the crème de la crème.”

Anyone who wants to put themselves to the test against the world’s best mountain runners has an opportunity to do that this year at one of the key sections of the mountain run. For the first time in the history of the Red Bull Dolomitenmann, there is going to be a separate event that allows amateurs to test their speed. The goal is to beat the best time of a mountain runner in 2016 from the barrier on the Goggsteig climb to the Gogghütte hut. Every man and woman is welcome to push themselves to the limit on the Beat the Gogg as they fight the temptation to give up. Registrations can be made on [www.beat-the-gogg.com](http://www.beat-the-gogg.com)

The highlights of the 30th Red Bull Dolomitenmann can be seen from 22:15 on 17 September in Red Bull TV Fenster on ServusTV.

[www.redbulldolomitenmann.com](http://www.redbulldolomitenmann.com)  
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