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## ART GRAND PRIX announces its "Official Teams"



ART Grand Prix is proud to announce its "Official Teams" set to line-up alongside the Factory Team in the major events of the international karting calendar starting with the upcoming Winter Cup. They will also represent the ART brand in their respective country's main championships.

ART Grand Prix planned to be present in some of the most traditional kart racing environments since the very beginning, thus deciding to provide support to some highly-qualified and professional outfits.

### >> ART Grand Prix (France)

The mother company of ART Grand Prix, currently committed to the GP2 and GP3 Series, has developed a karting department under supervision of Guillaume Capietto, the current Technical Director of the GP2 and GP3 operations. He will be joined by a younger engineer, fully-dedicated to kart racing, Max Fortier. Tony Lavanant has been appointed as Team Manager, and thanks to his recent experience in top-level go-kart racing, he will be able to provide an extremely valuable advice to the young fresh racers of the team. ART Grand Prix (France) is also the official distribution on French soil for the karting products of ART Grand Prix. The team will line-up with Lucas Marchy (KF3) and Charles Gregory Machado (KF3) in the Winter Cup, the WSK Euro Series and the European and World CIK-FIA races, in addition to the French-based GPO Series. A specific model for the Minimes and Cadet categories is currently undergoing the homologation process.



## >> ART Grand Prix Finland

ART Grand Prix Finland is the official distributor for ART Grand Prix in Finland, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. The team is headed by Juhani Pakari, Jukka Peltola and Kimmo Vainio (father of ART GP3 Series driver Aaro Vainio) and will line-up alongside the Factory Team in all the most renowned races on the 2012 schedule. Like all the satellite teams, ART Grand Prix Finland will benefit from engineering and technical support from the ART Grand Prix stable, and will be assisted on-track by the works engine builder in KF, Machac Racing. The "Finland" team will be lining-up in the Winter Cup with Toumas Haapalainen (KF3), Simo Laaksonen (KF3), Olli Peltola (KF3) and Niklas Nylund (KF2) and besides their European program, they will enter the Finnish Championship and the CIK-FIA Viking Trophy with the same drivers plus Jere Kalliokoski in KF3.



## >> ART Grand Prix Japan

The structure led by Manabu Michigami will be the Japanese distributor for ART Grand Prix and will also enter the most important European competitions including the WSK Master and Euro Series, plus the Winter Cup, with talented Takuya Okada and Sena Sakaguchi in KF3. The distributor also operates two single-seaters with full ART livery in a junior formula championship in Japan, offering a sensational link between kart and open-wheel racing that will enable drivers to get well-prepared for their European single-seater debut. The team fielded by ART Grand Prix Japan in the Japanese Championship will include Sotaro Mimura, Minato Suzuki, Fumiya Takayanagi in addition to Sakaguchi.



## >> ART Grand Prix New Zealand (Paffoni NZ Ltd)

In addition to being their distributor for New Zealand, Danilo Paffoni and his race team handed ART Grand Prix their first overall win with the TS-01 model at its debut, as they won the first race of the CIK New Zealand championship in KZ with Ryan Grant. They will also field kiwi Curren in the major national races around the country.



## >> Zip Kart (UK)

ZIP Kart was founded by the most successful kart racer in history, the sadly missed Martin Hines, and the team will now be the official outfit for ART Grand Prix in the United Kingdom. From its inception, Zip Kart cruised to 40 national, international and world titles, thus contributing to launch some of the stars currently on the grids of the top motorsports championships around the world. Their former Young Guns list include Lewis Hamilton (F1), David Coulthard (F1 and DTM), Gary Paffett (F1 and DTM), Anthony Davidson (FIA WEC) and Jamie Green (DTM). ZIP Kart, now directed by Grant Munro, will line-up in the British KF2 championship with Ben Barnicoat, Ricky Collard and Sam Webster.

