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WILLIAMS F1 CONFIRMS MALDONADO FOR 2011

1 December 2010. Grove, UK. Williams F1 today confirmed that Pastor Maldonado will contest the 2011 FIA Formula One World Championship for the AT&T Williams team. The appointment finalises the team's line up for next year following confirmation in November that Rubens Barrichello will remain with the British squad for a further season.

Venezuelan-born Maldonado started his motorsport career in karts at the age of seven, his passion for the sport ignited by a father and uncles who all competed. Having won seven national karting titles, Pastor moved into Formula racing in 2003. With three series championships and 30 wins to his credit, most notably a superlative victory at Monaco in only his debut year in GP2 in 2007, Pastor brings a wealth of experience to the team at only 25 years of age.

Pastor's promotion into the pinnacle of motorsport follows an impressive 2010 campaign in the GP2 championship in which he was crowned champion and became the only driver to have ever won six successive feature races in a single season. Pastor also comes to the team with nearly 2,000kms of F1 testing mileage in hand having driven all four of the Abu Dhabi test days. Pastor will make his debut in the team's 2011 race car, the Williams Cosworth FW33, in February's winter test programme.

On Pastor's appointment, AT&T Williams Team Principal, Frank Williams, said, "Pastor first caught my eye in 2007 when he drove a masterful race at Monaco. Since then, he has regularly reminded us of his unquestionable talent with some skilful wins, particularly during this year's GP2 championship, taking an unsurpassed record of six successive victories. Of course, we already know Pastor from the time he spent with the team at the Abu Dhabi test, but we are very much looking forward to developing his talent over the winter and a fruitful season with him next year."

Pastor commented, "I feel very privileged that Williams has selected me as one of their race drivers. It is a great way to end what has already been an amazing year for me. I tested with the team in Abu Dhabi, but can't wait to start working with everyone properly to be in the best possible shape going into next year. I will be doing my best over the winter to prepare myself, and I know the team will be working hard to ensure a successful season. 2011 will be the first time in nearly thirty years that a Venezuelan has driven a Formula One car so I will be looking to get some good results in return for the support my country has given me to help get me to this position today."

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More information on Pastor can be found at www.pastormaldonado.com

Images of Pastor can be downloaded at www.williams.latphoto.co.uk

A video edit for broadcast use can be downloaded from www.br.thenewsmarket.com/WilliamsF1

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PASTOR MALDONADO - BIOGRAPHY

Nationality Venezuelan
Date of Birth 9 March 1985

Career Highlights

2010	GP2 championship, series champion: 6 wins
2009	GP2 championship, 6 th overall: 2 wins
2008	GP2 championship, 5 th overall: 1 win, 5 podiums, 2 poles
2007	GP2 championship, 11 th overall: 1 win, 2 podiums, 1 pole
2006	Formula Renault 3.5 Series, 3 rd overall: 3 wins, 6 podiums, 5 poles
2005	Italian F3000 championship, 9 th overall: 1 win (from 4 starts)
2004	Italian Formula Renault 2.0 Series, series champion: 8 wins, 6 poles European Formula Renault V.6 Series, 8 th overall: 2 wins First Formula One test with Minardi F1
2003	Italian Formula Renault 2.0 Series, 7 th overall: 3 podiums, 1 pole
2000	Formula Renault Winter Series, series champion
1999 – 2002	Karting: Italian & European championships
1993 – 1999	Karting: Winner of 4 regional & 3 national Venezuelan championships

Born on 9 March 1985 in Maracay, Venezuela, 25-year-old Pastor Maldonado's career path has followed a traditional route by motorsport standards. By the age of seven, Pastor was racing karts in Venezuela's junior championships and, by the time he'd reached the tender age of 15, had already secured eight titles, including Renault's Winter Series. A move to Europe in 2003 ensued in order to contest the Italian Formula Renault Series. Three podiums placed him seventh overall at the end of his first season in Formula racing.

Remaining in the same series for a second season allowed Pastor to develop his skills and drive past the competition to eight wins making him the clear title winner that year. A dominating season was rewarded with recognition in Formula One circles when he was called to test for the Minardi F1 Team over the winter.

2005 was a disjointed year for Pastor. He competed in just four races in Italy's F3000 championship (enough to be ranked ninth overall) and then nine events in the Spanish World Series by Renault with a best placed finish of seventh.



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A more rewarding year followed in 2006 when Pastor finished third place in the Formula Renault 3.5 Series with three wins and six podiums. Pastor's talent was quickly acknowledged by GP2 and a seat for 2007 was confirmed over the winter. His first season was marked by highs and lows. After sealing a clear victory around Monaco, the celebrations were soon clouded by a broken collarbone, fractured while training, which put him out of action for four of the final rounds and out of the top ten in the final championship order.

Having made a full recovery over the winter, Pastor returned to GP2 in 2008 where he has remained for the past three seasons. Diligently honing his race craft over the time spent in Formula One's main feeder series has seen Pastor take a total of ten wins, 13 podiums, three poles and a Best Rookie Award. The ultimate prize came at the end of the 2010 campaign when Pastor's season culminated in title honours at the penultimate race of the year at Monza.