



**THAILAND TO HOST AIR RACE 1
16 September 2016**

Thailand will become the first country in the history of the Asia Pacific region to hold a pylon air race, featuring multiple airplanes racing directly against each other. The Sports Authority of Thailand will host the race at the U-Tapao Naval Air Base on 19-20 November 2016.

Air Race 1 is the international level of the sport known as formula one air racing. It is pure air racing in which eight airplanes race simultaneously at speeds of 450kph vying to cross the finish line first after eight laps.

Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul, The Minister of Tourism of Thailand, said: "Thailand is very happy to have won a bid to host this unique event. Thailand prides itself on being on being a leader on the cutting edge of the tourism industry and by inviting the Air Race 1 – the most elite level of air race – Thailand is solidifying its position as a top destination in Asia. We look forward to a long collaboration with Air Race 1 and we welcome the pilots, the teams and the thousands of fans that enjoy this sport."

Rear Admiral Luechai Sri-Eam Gool, Commander of U-Tapao Naval Airbase, stated: "We are pleased to offer the support of our international airport to Air Race 1 in a joint effort to make history in the region. We are delighted to share an exciting and fun event with our local community and international tourists alike."

Jeff Zaltman, CEO of Air Race 1, said: "Thailand is truly innovating and pioneering in sports tourism. We are honored to have been invited by such a remarkable country to showcase our sport to new and eager audiences. Thailand is a beautiful country, rich in culture and with a long tradition in sports of all kinds. We are proud to be able to introduce something that is not only new to Thailand, but new to the entire continent. And we are very privileged to cooperate with the Royal Thai Navy and U-Tapao Airport, which offer us such fine facilities and expertise."

The 2016 Air Race 1 event at U-Tapao Airport will be a test event to launch and promote the sport in Thailand. In 2017 a full Air Race 1 World Cup event is planned.

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About Air Race 1: For Images go to: www.airrace1.com/GalleryV2.ink

Air Race 1 is pure motorsport at its fastest. It is a thrilling test of pilot skill based upon the long-runningsport known as formula one air racing. The world's best race pilots compete to be the first one to cross the finish. Eight airplanes race directly against each other at speeds of over 450kph around a tight 5km circuit just 1.5km end to end. Formula one airplanes are a specifically defined airplane class with over 70 years of history which sets strict parameters regarding wing area, engine size and other technical characteristics. Air Race 1 is the top international title in the sport and is sanctioned by all three international formula air racing associations. Air Race 1 World Cup is the event name and trading name of Air Race CC Ltd, which is registered in the United Kingdom and has a base of operations in Spain. Air Race 1 is comprised of highly-regarded industry-leading experts who have extensive experience in organizing and promoting air racing and air sports competitions on a global scale and who work hard to ensure this race is both safe and a monumental success for all. *Note: The sport of formula one air racing has no connection to nor relationship with the sport of formula one car racing nor any other automobile race or organization.*

About Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT):

SAT is a division of the Ministry of Tourism and Sport of Thailand. It is responsible for development of sport and sports tourism in Thailand.

About U-Tapao Naval Air Base:

U-Tapao Naval Air Base is a joint civil-military public airport serving Rayong and Pattaya cities in Thailand. It is in Ban Chang District of Rayong Province. It also serves as the Royal Thai Naval Airbase, home of the Royal Thai Navy Air Wing. U-Tapao is also the home of a large Thai Airways maintenance facility, servicing that airline's aircraft as well as those of other customers.

For More Information:

- Air Race 1 website: www.airrace1.com
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/airraceone
- Sports Authority of Thailand: www.sat.or.th
- U-Tapao Rayong-Pattaya International Airport www.utapao.com

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