No.99 GMC Hummer EV Chip Ganassi Racing quickest out the blocks in Sardinia

Extreme E Season 2’s ‘The Race For the Planet’ returned to the course today as the ten teams got back behind the wheel for their first taste of an X Prix since February.

The seven-kilometre course in Sardinia proved the trickiest of the five events in the Championship’s inaugural season last year, offering up a much more compact terrain than the 20 world-class drivers were used to.

The teams returned to take on the NEOM Island X Prix double-header, co-organised by the Automobile Club d'Italia and Regione Sardegna, with much more in their arsenal. New upgrades to the ODYSSEY 21 include a suspension package from FOX and an improved chassis, both of which will allow the drivers to push harder than ever.

With double the points available this week, Sardinia could prove a crucial turning point in Season 2 and the Extreme E grid were primed to hit the ground running in the NEOM Island X Prix I.

Having warmed up in a Shakedown, No.99 GMC Hummer EV Chip Ganassi Racing set the pace in Free Practice. Riding the momentum gained from winning Semi-Final 2 at the Desert X Prix, the American team have been topping the time sheet in both sessions.
Their closest challengers were Rosberg X Racing (RXR), NEOM McLaren XE, and Genesys Andretti United Extreme E.

Finishing fourth in FP1, RXR

Third in both practice sessions were NEOM McLaren Extreme E, with Tanner Foust and Emma Gilmour achieving a consistent start at only the team’s second ever Extreme E event.

Close behind were Genesys Andretti United Extreme E. Catie Munnings and Timmy Hansen were straight on the pace in the first session, with the latter setting the fastest time in FP1. The duo maintained a high level of performance to finish fourth in FP2.

**Sara Price, No.99 GMC Hummer EV Chip Ganassi Racing:** “Last year we didn’t have that great of a start, so it’s great that we are off to a good one. Consistency is key for us this year.

“I am very confident in the team, I think we have a good setup and we’ve learned a lot in the time we’ve been in Extreme E, so we’re in a good position.

“I think the course has been worked in a little bit more since last year. It's going to be a lot faster, not as rough, and maybe not as technical at times. This is terrain that we are used to coming from South California and racing in Baja, so it’s where we feel at home.”

**Johan Kristoffersson, Rosberg X Racing:** “I feel refreshed and in great shape and the team made some great progress during our test in France, so we are all set for an exciting week of racing.

“It’s very exciting to come back to Sardinia. The track looks really fast and it’s smoother than last year. Most of the part at the beginning/the start is very similar but the corners are graded a little bit differently. I think also the last part is a little bit more exciting than last year so I hope that there will be some good racing and some overtake opportunities as well.

“It’s still going to be warm – we are not used to this heat in Scandinavia so it’s going to be bit different!”

**Emma Gilmour, NEOM McLaren Extreme E: “**The track is looking really nice and looking fast so I think it’s going to be a lot of fun to drive.

“We are feeling confident after we had a really good test together and we know so much more now about the race weekend. Turning up in Saudi Arabia was a huge learning curve for a lot of us all working together so it was really encouraging to see us competitive straight out the box.

**Catie Munnings, Genesys Andretti United Extreme E: “**I really like the new section of the course – it’s going to be very fast and flowing.

“With the two races back-to-back, it’s especially important to keep the rhythm. Usually it gets to the end of the weekend and we want to keep going, so now we have the opportunity to go again with this double-header. I think it will give people an opportunity if they have disappointment in the first event. Obviously, though, everybody’s ultimately looking for two strong results.”

With things already so close in the early stages, there’s everything to play for as the teams head into what promises to be a competitive Qualifying tomorrow.

Find out where you can watch the action [here](https://www.extreme-e.com/en/news/596_Where-to-watch-NEOM-Island-X-Prix)

**ENDS**

**To learn more about Extreme E, visit -** [**www.Extreme-E.com**](http://www.extreme-e.com)

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**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About Extreme E:**

Now in its second season, Extreme E is a radical off-road racing series, founded by the same team behind Formula E, which showcases electric SUVs and futuristic technologies in some of the world’s most remote and challenging environments.

This five-event global voyage utilises its sporting platform for the purpose of promoting electrification, environment and equality. The series’ goal is to highlight the impact of climate change in some of the world’s most endangered environments, promote the adoption of electric vehicles to pave the way for a lower carbon future, and provide a world-first gender-equal motorsport platform.

The first sport to ever be built out of a social purpose, Extreme E aims to minimise environmental impact while maximising awareness, racing in places that have already been damaged or affected by climate change or human interference and taking fans deep into the heart of the most pressing issues facing our planet’s future.

Not only that, but Extreme E is also helping the car industry to develop future-facing technology using racing as a platform for road innovation, which accelerates change ten-fold.

Season 2 Calendar:

NEOM, Saudi Arabia
19-20 February 2022
Sardinia, Italy
06-07 July 2022
Sardinia, Italy
09-10 July 2022
Antofagasta, Chile
24-25 September 2022
Punta del Este, Uruguay
26-27 November 2022

**About NEOM:** NEOM is an accelerator of human progress and a vision of what a New Future might look like. It is a region in northwest Saudi Arabia on the Red Sea being built from the ground up as a living laboratory – a place where entrepreneurship will chart the course for this New Future. It will be a destination and a home for people who dream big and want to be part of building a new model for exceptional livability, creating thriving businesses and reinventing environmental conservation.

NEOM will include hyperconnected, cognitive towns and cities, ports and enterprise zones, research centers, sports and entertainment venues and tourist destinations. As a hub for innovation, entrepreneurs, business leaders and companies will come to research, incubate and commercialize new technologies and enterprises in groundbreaking ways. Residents of NEOM will embody an international ethos and embrace a culture of exploration, risk-taking and diversity.

For further information email media@neom.com or visit [www.neom.com](http://www.neom.com/)and [www.neom.com/en-us/newsroom](http://www.neom.com/en-us/newsroom)

**About ENOWA:** ENOWA is a world-class energy, water and hydrogen company founded in NEOM, Saudi Arabia. ENOWA produces and delivers clean and sustainable resources for industrial and commercial applications using a customer-centric smart and connected system, designed to be circular and takes advantage of NEOM's optimal solar and wind energy profile. ENOWA benefits from NEOM's greenfield site, which has no legacy infrastructure, to advance Energy, Water, and Hydrogen innovation.

ENOWA will act as a catalyst and incubator for developing new, sustainable energy and water businesses while creating a robust economic sector regionally. Through its commitment to renewable energy and efficient water management, ENOWA seeks to become a global reference for industry leaders and setting a benchmark for sustainable economic circular systems around the world.

For more information, please visit [enowa.neom.com](https://enowa.neom.com/)

**About Continental Tires: Founding Partner and Official Tire Partner**
Continental develops pioneering technologies and services for sustainable and connected mobility of people and their goods. Founded in 1871, the technology company offers safe, efficient, intelligent, and affordable solutions for vehicles, machines, traffic and transportation.

The tyres business area has 24 production and development locations worldwide. Continental is one of the leading tyre manufacturers with more than 56,000 employees and offers a broad product range for passenger cars, commercial and special-purpose vehicles as well as two-wheelers. Through continuous investment in research and development, Continental makes a major contribution to safe, cost effective and ecologically efficient mobility. The portfolio of the tyres business area includes services for the tyre trade and fleet applications, as well as digital management systems for tyres.

Continental has developed a new high-performance tyre for Extreme E Season 2, redesigned to include the use of more sustainable materials. Each of the 30 tyres that Continental has supplied to all ten Extreme E teams now contains recycled polyester made from approximately 60 PET bottles.  In total, around a third of each second-generation CrossContact Extreme E tyre consists of recycled and renewable raw materials.

**About AFC Energy:**
Extreme E embarked on a world-first collaboration with AFC Energy, whose pioneering hydrogen fuel cell technology enables the Championship’s race fleet to be charged using zero-emission energy. Extreme E is the first event organiser to utilise hydrogen fuel cell power generators for charging, and the decision supports the series’ goal of being sustainable and creating minimal local impact on the environments in which it races.

AFC Energy has engineered a bespoke H-PowerTM fuel cell system for Extreme E, which has been designed with a clear specification and a focus on sustainable innovation. It offers a completely sustainable fuel production process, using water and sun to generate hydrogen power which is then used to charge all the ODYSSEY 21 e-SUVs off the grid. Not only does this process emit zero greenhouse emissions, but its only by-product is water, which is utilised elsewhere on-site.

**About CBMM: Founding Supplier**
CBMM | Niobium is a founding supplier of Extreme E and the Championship’s official Niobium Technology Supplier and Chassis Technology Supplier.

Critical to the automotive sector, niobium produces stronger, lighter and more sustainable cars with better energy efficiency. Its technologies are already widely applied in different areas, including light-weighting, safety, emissions reduction and electronics that will help lead to a sustainable sector transformation. Key applications of niobium in the Mobility sector include chassis, brakes and exhaust systems, drivetrains, batteries and EV charging stations and any number of ancillary components. Its qualities mean materials can be made lighter, stronger, more robust and more reliable – all while being more sustainable than other materials.

CBMM offers technical innovation to customers around the globe through a team of over 2,000 highly trained, dedicated professionals providing cutting-edge niobium products and technology to over 400 clients in around 40 countries.

**About LuisaViaRoma: Official Fashion Partner**
Defined by the Financial Times as “a haven for directional fashion,”[LUISAVIAROMA.COM](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furl6.mailanyone.net%2Fv1%2F%3Fm%3D1l40NA-00039a-3X%26i%3D57e1b682%26c%3D195AVmsnACejGQbj8XWTN7evBrvKJ1dnbRSlGauikIN1jvOJqayL11c08sfz5q1cceT_kfGhbO_Pgdul_vKgCHKD7IRSCNz5N1nGW9IZudTMsArXH_4RgkZJ_1yUJ1LCnfuAdJA1-KMInD6ZezFTWMgr389RpxOBDTwby2-m0iGBYpmPZjv9wwqhM1MxBH243uOw61cdEjXAR5FWvZyEV-xrW9U-ZTO-2PYSpSwfH4s&data=04%7C01%7CCarla.Corbet%40mpacreative.com%7C0caf6dd47e0f4a1eab8908d8c127765b%7C3891b9e18f6b4fe3a38ee5305dc2823a%7C1%7C0%7C637471722513203463%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=jOWRp6eyKk%2BAXQzlhUUINtGvz6Jil8elRhPIOfB8uOY%3D&reserved=0) is the top online luxury fashion destination with 5,000,000 visitors per month and worldwide shipping. With each new season, the website presents the collections of more than 600 established designers and young emerging talents.

**About Zenith: Official Timekeeper and Founding Partner**
Zenith exists to inspire individuals to pursue their dreams and make them come true – against all odds. Since its establishment in 1865, Zenith became the first watch manufacture in the modern sense of the term, and its watches have accompanied extraordinary figures that dreamt big and strived to achieve the impossible – from Louis Blériot’s history-making flight across the English Channel to Felix Baumgartner’s record-setting stratospheric free-fall jump. Zenith is also highlighting visionary and trailblazing women – past and present – by celebrating their accomplishments and creating in 2020 its first-ever collection dedicated entirely to them, Defy Midnight.

With innovation as its guiding star, Zenith features exceptional in-house developed and manufactured movements in all its watches. Since the creation of the El Primero in 1969, the world’s first automatic chronograph calibre, Zenith has gone on to master fractions of the second with the Chronomaster Sport and its 1/10th of a second precision and the DEFY 21 with a precision of 1/100th of a second.

**About Allianz: Founding Partner and Official Insurance Partner**
The Allianz Group is one of the world's leading insurers and asset managers with more than 100 million private and corporate customers in more than 70 countries. Allianz customers benefit from a broad range of personal and corporate insurance services, ranging from property, life and health insurance to assistance services to credit insurance and global business insurance. Allianz is one of the world’s largest investors, managing around 790 billion euros on behalf of its insurance customers. Furthermore, our asset managers PIMCO and Allianz Global Investors manage 1.7 trillion euros of third-party assets.

**About Vodafone Business: Official Technology and Communication Partner**

With expertise in connectivity, global scale and the leading IoT platform, Vodafone Business is a leading technology communications company helping organisations succeed in a digital world and keeping society connected. Vodafone’s purpose is to connect for a better future, enabling an inclusive and sustainable digital society, and many of its solutions have sustainability and inclusivity embedded.

Unique in its scale as the largest pan-European and African technology communications company, Vodafone transforms the way we live and work through its innovation, technology, connectivity, platforms, products and services. Vodafone operates mobile and fixed networks in 21 countries, and partners with mobile networks in 52 more. As of 31 December 2021, they had over 300m mobile customers, more than 28m fixed broadband customers and over 22m TV customers.

This collaboration will see Vodafone Business leading innovations and capabilities such as 5G, MPN, IOT and MEC, integrated into Extreme E’s global operations and will include full involvement in the purpose- driven elements of the series, with special prominence on Extreme E’s Legacy Programmes and the Science Laboratory on board the St Helena. Through its IOT solutions, Vodafone Business is helping sustainability efforts, including agriculture, forestation and decarbonisation of energy grids.

Find out more on <http://www.Vodafone.com/business> and follow Vodafone on its social media channels:

Twitter: @VodafoneGroup

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/vodafone](http://www.linkedin.com/company/vodafone)

**About Neat Burger: Official Plant-based Partner**
Neat Burger is the first of its kind – the planet-friendly, plant-based, full-flavoured game-changer the world has been waiting for. The world’s first plant-based sustainable burger chain, Neat Burger offers a menu that appeals to not only those who follow plant-based diets, but anyone, meat-eaters included, who wants to eat delicious meat-free dishes that are more sustainable, healthier and ethical.

The brand is backed by seven-time FIA Formula One World Champion Lewis Hamilton, in collaboration with hospitality organisation The Cream Group and investors, as well as UNICEF Ambassador and early backer of Beyond Meat Tommaso Chiabra. Neat Burger opened its first site in September 2019, just off Regent Street in London, and its second and third dine-in outlets at Camden Market and Soho in 2020. Plans for global expansion across Europe, the US and Middle East are already in place.

**About EY: Official Innovation Partner**
EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, strategy, transaction and consulting services. The insights and quality services they deliver help build trust and confidence in capital markets and in economies the world over. EY develops outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, they play a critical role in building a better working world for their people, for their clients and for their communities.

EY originally joined the Championship to help Extreme E achieve its commitment of minimizing the overall footprint whilst creating a positive legacy. In collaborating with Extreme E, EY has become a vital part of creating an Environment Impact Assessment framework which further drives the championship in the direction of positive change. Whilst Extreme E strives to race without leaving a trace, the framework provided by EY has allowed the championship to minimize its environmental impact across each race location. Both prior and post-racing impact assessments have allowed Extreme E to strategically plan their actions within these areas.

**About INTERprotección: Official Insurance Broker**
INTERprotección is composed of a group of Mexican insurance, reinsurance and surety bond brokerage companies. With global presence and recognition, INTERprotección has more than 40 years of experience in management and comprehensive risk consulting in the Mexican market. Its business model is focused on bringing the client to the forefront and offering them the best service through innovative and disruptive products, more recently with its new brand [inter.mx](https://inter.mx/), its insurance digital platform that is transforming the insurtech game.

**About Enel X Way: Official Smart Charging Partner**Enel X Way is the Enel Group's new global business line entirely dedicated to electric mobility. Currently, Enel X Way manages approximately 320,000 charging points, both directly and through interoperability agreements in place worldwide1. As a global platform for e-mobility, the company is focused on developing flexible charging technologies and solutions to improve the customer experience by supporting the electrification of transport for consumers, businesses, cities and public administrationsFind out more on <https://enelxway.it/en/home> and follow Enel X Way on its social media channels:LinkedIn: Enel X Way

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1 Public and private charging points, including points of interoperability.

