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NEW DESIGN FOR NÜRBURGRING NGK CHICANE FINANCED BY MICHAEL SCHUMACHER DAY

The one-off Michael Schumacher Day at the Nürburgring Circuit on 7 September was created by Michael specifically to finance the reconstruction of the Circuit's NGK Chicane.

NGK Spark Plugs, the world's largest manufacturer of spark plugs for use in automobiles and motorcycles, first sponsored the landmark Chicane in 2002 and it will continue to be known as the NGK Chicane until at least 2007. The Chicane is strategically placed at a key position on every lap raced at the Nürburgring.

It was at the conclusion of last year's European Formula 1 Grand Prix that Michael Schumacher first approached Dr Kafitz, Managing Director of the Nürburgring Circuit, to tell him that, in his opinion, the NGK Chicane was too easy – and therefore extremely dangerous.

Because it was too easy to drive over the curbs, drivers were taking excessive risks and in fact 'taking off' into the air for short periods of time. Dr Kafitz agreed but said that the money was just not available for such a major reconstruction.

cont.



Press Release



Thus the reason for the creation of the Michael Schumacher Day on 7 September. The NGK Chicane has already been reconstructed (pictured) by the German, Herman Tilke, who is very well known worldwide for building racing circuits, including the new circuit in Shanghai. This has made it much more sharp and more difficult to drive. And paying for the cost of this reconstruction will be the 30,000+ enthusiasts who turn up on 7 September to watch Michael and other stars of world motor sport in action.

“The thanks of all of us at NGK go to Michael,” says Mr Okumura, Managing Director of NGK Europe, “for such a generous gesture. We are delighted that the NGK Chicane has become an even more attractive and demanding element of this world-famous race track.”

