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Champs Crest Jaseri racing for charity

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AFTER having won the overall title last year as the Naza Jaseri Racing Team, the new Crest Jaseri Racing Team have added more punch to their driver line-up and a touch of charity to their campaign in the Merdeka Millennium Endurance (MME) race at the Sepang Circuit on Aug 30.

Led by Jaseri Auto Eurocars executive chairman Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir, the team have also recruited ex-Formula One driver Alex Yoong (pic) and former Formula Asia campaigner Faizal Hakimi Jaafar.

"Racing is supposed to be a fun thing and it is good that we have had the chance to add some charity to it," said Mokhzani, who is also the new Sepang International Circuit (SIC) chairman.

The team will be running for a public collection of a minimum RM1 per lap completed in the 12-hour race, which will be donated to the Malaysian Liver Foundation, the Thalassemia Association of Malaysia and the Bangi Orphanage.

"I started this when I competed in the 2000 MME with Datuk Azman Yahya and Aminuddin Omar. We raised over RM300,000 that year and in 2001," said Mokhzani.

The public can pledge their donations to the Crest Jaseri Racing Team by contacting Radziwill Mohamad or team manager Gary Khor at 03-5032 9000 or fax at 03-5032 9888.

Charity aside, the three drivers believe they are capable of mounting a serious challenge on board the brand new Porsche GT3 built by Sungai Buloh-based WRC Motorsports.

"I do believe we have a good chance of winning. I know we will be running a reliable car and I was surprised by its performance during testing," said Yoong, who was said to have clocked in the region of 2:19.00s during testing at the Sepang Circuit.

"I had driven a powerful car in 2000 and last year for the Petronas Eon Racing Team (PERT) and it wasn't such a shock adjusting to the Porsche. But I am still learning about the car from Alex," said Hakimi, who has been clocking in just two seconds slower than Yoong.

Crest Jaseri are the second team to have launched a charity campaign for their drive this year, as Meritus Racing will also be running a collection for the Tuanku Abdul Rahman University.

Meritus' two Porsche GT3s will be piloted by the experienced Aminuddin, Azman and JP Chin, and the potent combination of Firhat Mokhzani, Eric Yeo and TJ Chin.