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Rapide to Compete in Nürburgring 24 Hours

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Aston Martin is entering the four-door Rapide in the Nürburgring 24 Hours race, to be held on 15-16 May on the famously demanding Nordschleife. Driven by a team of engineers from Aston's Gaydon headquarters - including Chief Executive, Dr Ulrich Bez - the Rapide will compete in near-standard specification.

"This race represents the ultimate final engineering durability test for any sports car," says **Bez**. "It subjects the car to the toughest possible assessment under public scrutiny."

The **Rapide** will undergo only essential racing modifications, such as removing interior trim to reduce weight, re-tuning the suspension and running on slick tyres.

Aston Martin already has a proven track record at the **Nürburgring 24 Hours**, using road cars with only very limited modifications, and winning the **SP8** class in both 2008 and 2009. For 2010, the Rapide will be joined on the **Nordschleife** by the **V12 Vantage** - again only mildly modified - which last year swept to a class win on its competitive race debut.

Deliveries of the road-going Rapide will start later this month, through **Aston Martin's** 125-strong global dealership network.

Text: Charis Whitcombe

Photos: Aston Martin

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