



International Powerhouses Team Garmin- Sharp and Belkin Pro Cycling to Race

EDMONTON, Alberta

Team Garmin-Sharp, the American-based team of 2013 Tour of Alberta champion Rohan Dennis and top Canadian Ryder Hesjedal, and The Netherland's top team, **Belkin Pro Cycling**, today were announced as the first two teams to commit to participate in this year's race, scheduled for September 2 to 7, 2014. Both teams have been consistently ranked in the world's top 10 the past five years.

Team Garmin-Sharp's Ryder Hesjedal of Victoria, British Columbia won the 2012 Giro d'Italia. Like Belkin Pro Cycling, Team Garmin-Sharp is loaded with international talent, including Tyler Farrar, an American who was won a stage in all three Grand Tours: France, Italy and Spain. The talented 22-year-old, Dennis Rohan, was a surprise winner of last year's race.

Belkin is the team of Robert Gesink, one of the world's top stage racers. He raced and finished 5th overall in last year's Tour of Alberta. The team also features Lauren Ten Dam, a top 10 Tour de France finisher.

"I loved the Tour of Alberta last year. It had plenty of challenges throughout the whole race and I think the fact it was the inaugural Tour of Alberta made it all the more special to me," said Dennis. "The race itself was organized perfectly. I am looking forward to being around the people of Alberta. I honestly could not believe how friendly everyone was. It's an important race for me and the team this year."

120 of the world's best cyclists will compete in the Tour of Alberta. The race will feature 15 teams of eight cyclists each. Last season, athletes from 25 countries were on rosters for the race.

"To attract two of the world's top teams out of the gate is a great sign of acceptance at the world level for this race," said Tour of Alberta Chairman Brian Jolly, a former Olympian and elite level professional.

Additional teams will be announced this summer.

For more information, please contact:

Local Contact:

Kylee Quinn

Marketing & Office Manager, Tour of Alberta

780.909.3536

kyleeq@albertapeloton.ca

International Contact:

Steven Brunner

President, KOM Marketing

1.719.322.7022

sgrunner@KOM-sports.com