

TUUKKA TAPONEN TAKES THE LEAD AT HOCKENHEIM IN THE FIRST COLLECTIVE TEST

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The **Formula Regional European Championship by Alpine** kicked off its first round of the year this morning at the **Hockenheim** circuit, where the first collective test was held with 33 cars on track.

Leading the pack was young team **R-ace GP** driver **Tuukka Taponen**, who was the only one to break the 1'36" barrier, clocking a time of 1'35"932. Right behind the Ferrari Driver Academy representative was his teammate **Zachary David**, trailing by just under two-tenths. Claiming the third fastest time was **MP Motorsport** driver **Nikita Bedrin**, followed by **Enzo Deligny** (R-ace GP), and the other two MP Motorsport drivers, **Nikhil Bhora** and **Valerio Rinicella**, who finished fifth and sixth, respectively.

Alessandro Giusti (ART Grand Prix), a Williams Academy driver, also performed well, finishing seventh ahead of **Rafael Camara** (Prema Racing), **Enzo Peugeot** (Sainteloc Racing), and **Evan Giltaire** (ART Grand Prix) rounding out the top 10.

The session was interrupted by three red flags due to gravel exits by **Jasse Carrasquedo** (G4 Racing), **James Wharton** (Prema Racing), and **Nicola Lacorte** (Trident Motorsport) during turn 12.

The international series will return to action this afternoon for the second timed session at 16:29.