



Valeo and Luc Alphand: a winning combination New technologies for greater comfort, safety and performance

PARIS, France, 18 December 2006 – In October 2005 Valeo and Luc Alphand signed a partnership agreement for the FIA Cross Country World Cup rally events and the Le Mans Endurance Series covering the 2006 to 2008 seasons.

In the very first year of this partnership, Luc Alphand recorded some great performances. At the wheel of his Mitsubishi Pajero Montero Evolution, he won the Dakar, Patagonia and Dubai rallies. Driving his C5R Corvette, he came in third in the Le Mans 24 Hours race (GT1 category) and third in the overall Le Mans Endurance Series championship.

From January 6th 2007, Luc Alphand will compete in the 2007 Lisbon Dakar Rally where endurance, perseverance and performance, of both man and machine will be put to the test in harsh desert conditions. Over a 14 day race, the Mitsubishi Pajero will cover 8 696 km through 6 countries.

For all these races, Luc Alphand's vehicles were equipped with innovative systems specially developed by Valeo.

Improved visibility for safer and faster driving

As well as reducing the weight and height by 50% compared to traditional systems, Valeo's second generation **FlatBlade** wiper system on the Pajero and the Corvette offers improved dynamics ensuring uniform pressure of the wiper across the whole windshield surface as well as easier and faster assembly and disassembly.

The new Pajero prepared for the 2007 Dakar is equipped with Valeo **XLed** headlamps combining Xenon and light-emitting diodes, the two most effective light sources available today.

The Corvette, for its part, is equipped with six Valeo **Xenon optic units** which provide a significant increase in range and lower electricity consumption than halogen headlamps.

The driver's comfort, a new prerequisite... for safety and performance

Valeo, the European leader in **air conditioning** systems, has also designed a system adapted to racing conditions enabling the ambient temperature in the cockpit to be brought down from 65° to 32°C in... less than two minutes and to 23°C in ten minutes. It features three vents for the cabin, feet and face, giving the driver unparalleled driving comfort... and helping him improve his performance. This unique system equipped as a world first Luc Alphand's Corvette in the Le Mans 24 Hours race.

Valeo Service supplies high quality parts and services to both OES and IAM markets. Valeo Service is supported by the expertise of the Group's twelve industrial branches and their leading positions in the Original Equipment market. Valeo Service has one of the most extensive offers for the aftermarket with 176 product ranges covering 12 product functions for passenger and commercial vehicles. www.valeoservice.com

Press contact:



Victoria Marshall
Tel +33 1 49 45 37 77
Fax +33 1 49 45 39 55
victoria.marshall@valeo.com