

Sunday, 25/04/2021

## **Strong recovery of Maximilian Günther at the race premiere of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship in Valencia**



This weekend, the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship held two races in Valencia for the first time in the history of the electric racing series. In the third double-header of the year, Maximilian Günther just missed out on points but showed a strong performance in dry conditions.

Although the 23-year-old German set the fastest time in pre-season testing, he and his BMW i Andretti Motorsport team initially entered uncharted territory as some sections of the 3.376-kilometre Circuit Ricardo Tormo were modified. After briefly getting to know the new track layout, he set the second fastest time (1:27.425 minutes) in the first free practice session on Saturday morning and put another exclamation mark on his performance with the fastest time in the

second free practice session (1:26.958).

Maximilian Günther headed into qualifying in the third group and moved into the Super Pole again in third place (1:26.868). In the battle for pole position, he finished third (1:26.943) and achieved his best qualifying result to date. Due to a subsequent penalty for a competitor, he moved up one spot and started the Valencia E-Prix from the front row of the grid.

Heavy rain set in just in time for the race start, which is the reason why the race was started behind the safety car. After the green flag, the German was able to defend second place at first, but dropped back to sixth place due to grip problems on the wet track. Towards the middle of the race, he slid into the gravel bed whilst braking for turn two due to a locked rear axle and had to end his race prematurely.

The second day of the Valencia E-Prix began as the first ended, with rain. While conditions were still wet in the third free practice session, the track slowly dried out during qualifying. Maximilian Günther went out in the third group and was running fast. Unfortunately, his lap time was cancelled and he had to start from the back of the grid.

The BMW i Andretti Motorsport driver had a good start and overtook four cars on the first two laps. A close battle for positions was emerging, with energy management playing a crucial role. The 23-year-old used the energy of his BMW iFE 21 intelligently and showed a strong comeback. Efficient driving enabled him to start a final attack on the top 10 in the closing stages of the race. After 30 laps, he crossed the finish line in twelfth place, narrowly missing out on a points finish by just one second.

In two weeks, Formula E will travel to Monaco, where the seventh round of the season will take place on 8 May. There, Maximilian Günther wants to attack again and return to the track of success at his second home race.

**Maximilian Günther:** "The weekend in Valencia had many ups and downs. Our pace in the dry was very good and I was happy with it on Saturday in practice and qualifying. But we have to analyse what went wrong in wet conditions. In the race on Sunday, I moved up from 24th to 12th and had a lot of fun with overtaking. Next up is the race in Monaco. The tight street circuit doesn't allow any mistakes, so we have to analyse where we have to improve to be able to race at the front again."

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## RESULT

R5 & R6 | 24/25 APRIL 2021  
VALENCIA, ES

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RACE 1: DNF

RACE 2: P12

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## 2020/21 - ABB FIA Formula E World Championship (after 6 races)

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Points: 12

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Position: 21

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## DOWNLOAD



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## About Maximilian Günther

A dream came true! Maximilian Günther competes with BMW i Andretti Motorsport in the ABB FIA Formula E Championship 2019/20 and becomes factory driver of the Munich-based manufacturer. Since the fifth season, the German has been competing in the world's first all-electric FIA Championship for formula cars, which mostly takes place on street circuits at spectacular venues such as New York, Hong Kong, Paris, Rome and Berlin.

Maximilian Günther has worked as a test and development driver for Jay Penske's American team GEOX DRAGON since the beginning of 2018 and was significantly involved in the development of their Gen2 car. In the same

year, the 21-year-old German took part in the FIA Formula 2 Championship, where he won the prestigious race at the Grand Prix of Great Britain.

In Season 5 of the ABB FIA Formula E championship, Maximilian Günther was the youngest regular driver in the history of the racing series at the age of 21 years. In Paris and Bern he finished in the top 5 after a strong pace and scored a total of 20 points in his rookie season. With this performance the German attracted attention and recommended himself for a BMW factory cockpit. In 2020, he scored two race wins and a second-place finish in his first year as a BMW works driver, once again making history as the youngest race winner in the history of Formula E.

Maximilian Günther began his motorsport career in various junior racing series. His greatest successes to date include the runner-up title in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship 2016, the win at the historic Formula 3 Grand Prix de Pau 2017 and the win in the FIA Formula 2 at the Grand Prix of Great Britain at Silverstone. In 2016 and 2017 Maximilian Günther was in working as DTM test and replacement driver and Formula 1 simulator driver for Mercedes. Two times he was named Germany's Motorsport Talent of the Year by the Deutsche Post Speed Academy and was also voted ADAC Junior Motorsportsman of the Year by a panel of experts in 2016.

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