

## 2020 AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX – FRIDAY 03/07/2020

**Daniil Kvyat (AT01-03, Car 26)****First Practice Session****Best lap: 1:06.943, pos. 19<sup>th</sup>, 19 laps****Second Practice Session****Best lap: 1:05.443, pos. 12<sup>th</sup>, 34 laps**

“FP1 was a tricky session for us today. We were not that satisfied with the window the car was in, but I felt happier in FP2 as we were able to improve the car and make a step forward. We still have some work to do overnight but I’m positive that we will find what we need to improve the car still further for tomorrow.”

**Pierre Gasly (AT01-04, Car 10)****First Practice Session****Best lap: 1:06.404, pos. 16<sup>th</sup>, 25 laps****Second Practice Session****Best lap: 1:06.016, pos. 17<sup>th</sup>, 51 laps**

“I’m very happy to be back in the car after such a long break. It was an exciting day and we managed to do quite a few laps. In terms of performance, we knew it was going to be quite difficult, because I think we are still discovering the car and trying to understand what exactly we need from it. Unfortunately, I couldn’t do a clean lap on the Options due to traffic, but Dany was ok, so we’ll have a lot of things to analyse after today and try to put everything together for tomorrow’s Qualifying.”

**Guillaume Dezoteux (Head of Vehicle Performance):**

“Today we had a difficult first free practice, during which we had a few operational issues and we also struggled with finding a good car balance. The weather didn’t help either, with a damp track at the start. After a number of set up adjustments in between the sessions, we significantly improved the car in the afternoon and the drivers were happier. But we are still lacking some front-end grip in the third sector, which is very demanding on the front tyres. We need to analyse all the data and understand where we are in terms of competitiveness. The midfield looks tight again, so we have to optimise every aspect of the car to be able to fight for the top places. Finally, it was fantastic to be back racing and I must say that the constraints added by all the health and safety measures have not been too distracting and we were able to operate almost normally.”

**Toyoharu Tanabe (Honda F1 Technical Director):**

“Finally, after such a long break, we are glad to see the cars running on track again for the Austrian Grand Prix weekend. There are many restrictions in the paddock and the circuit in terms of what we can do and where we can go. In the case of Honda, it is slightly inconvenient that our members from our two different teams cannot have any contact. But it’s a minor issue and does not affect us getting on with our main job of ensuring our cars run well. It’s strange having no fans and we miss them. Today, we had no PU issues with our four cars and now we will continue optimising our PU settings in preparation for qualifying and the race.”

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