



## Media Information

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### **FORMER SUBARU WORLD RALLY TEAM DRIVER CHRIS ATKINSON TO MAKE RED BULL GLOBAL RALLYCROSS DEBUT IN ATLANTIC CITY**

Cherry Hill, N.J., Aug 24, 2016 - Subaru of America Inc. announced today that former Subaru WRC driver Chris Atkinson will enter Red Bull Global Rallycross (GRC) Round 9 in Atlantic City, NJ with Subaru Rally Team USA this weekend. The 36 year-old Australian will join Subaru drivers Sverre Isachsen and Bucky Lasek at the wheel of a newly-built 2017 Subaru WRX STI prepared by Subaru technical partners Vermont SportsCar and Subaru Tecnica International.

Atkinson has a strong history with the Subaru brand, having driven for Subaru Australia in 2004, before joining the Subaru World Rally Team between 2005 and 2008. Atkinson has accumulated 77 starts in the WRC including 41 stage wins and six podiums. The Australian is looking forward to re-joining Subaru for a new challenge in the Red Bull Global Rallycross Championship. The Atlantic City Red Bull GRC round will be Atkinson's first-ever rallycross event.

"The team is great. It's impressive to see how much the car has evolved since I last saw the guys. It's really a great operation. They've come a long way since I first saw the guys 10 years ago," commented Atkinson. "The team is a really good bunch of guys, good fun. Everyone is really motivated to succeed and to improve. I'm really excited to be part of the team. It's great to see everyone working hard and I'll do my part, and look forward to pushing for a good result."

2016 has been a busy year for Subaru Rally Team USA, as the team has been engaged with multiple tests and a methodical development approach to be primed for the 2017 GRC season. Atkinson took part in a recent test where he was able to drive his 2017 Subaru WRX STI GRC car and work with the team to further develop the chassis.

"It's pretty mad. I'm used to a 340hp rally car and not a 600hp Supercar. It definitely goes well compared to what I'm used to. That was my biggest impression on the car. The rest is quite similar to a rally car in terms of handling and dynamics so I got used to it pretty quickly," explained Atkinson. "I had a big smile on my face every time I got on the gas! That was pretty cool."

The ninth round of Red Bull Global Rallycross at Bader Field in Atlantic City, NJ will be held on August 27-28. The runway-based course will be the longest course (1.1 miles) of the Red Bull GRC season consisting of 10 turns with 80% tarmac and 20% gravel. Subaru Rally Team USA drivers, Sverre Isachsen and Bucky Lasek will be visiting the

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia on Friday, August 26 with Racing for Kids as a part of the Red Bull GRC's charity initiative and later Friday they will be joining the Atlantic City Boardwalk Parade from 5pm-7pm to kick off the race weekend.

The race will be televised live on NBC from 3pm ET on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> and will be streamed live on Redbull.tv.

Full coverage of Subaru Rally Team USA is available on the Subaru Motorsports App. To download from the iTunes App store, [click here](#), for Android App on Google Play store, [click here](#). Follow the team on Instagram [@srtusa](#) and Twitter [@srtusa](#).

#### **About Subaru Rally Team USA**

Subaru Rally Team USA is managed by Vermont SportsCar and proudly supported by [Subaru of America, Inc.](#), [Subaru Tecnica International \(STI\)](#), [Method Race Wheels](#), [DirtFish Rally School](#), [DMACK Tires](#), and [PIAA](#).

Follow the team online at [www.subaru.com/rally](http://www.subaru.com/rally)

#### **About Subaru of America, Inc.**

Subaru of America, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. of Japan. Headquartered at a zero-landfill office in Cherry Hill, N.J., the company markets and distributes Subaru vehicles, parts and accessories through a network of more than 600 retailers across the United States. All Subaru products are manufactured in zero-landfill production plants and Subaru of Indiana Automotive Inc. is the only U.S. automobile production plant to be designated a backyard wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. For additional information visit [media.subaru.com](http://media.subaru.com).