



The world's top football players travel in comfort and safety on Continental tires

All 2006 FIFA World Cup™ team vehicles to be equipped with Continental coach tires

Hanover, June 2006. The final round draw for the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ was held in the World Cup city of Leipzig in December 2005, dividing the 32 qualifying teams into eight groups. The opening game between Germany and Costa Rica will be played in Munich's FIFA World Cup™ stadium on June 9th, with the final taking place in Berlin's Olympic stadium exactly one month later. In all, the teams will play in 12 cities across Germany, incurring considerable travelling time for the players. Since the teams' preferred mode of transport between match locations is coach, Continental Truck Tires has taken the opportunity to combine its passion for sport with its enthusiasm for innovation, and develop a tire with specially-designed sidewalls to mark the event.

Based technically on the HSL1 steer-axle tire, the 295/80 R 22.5 HSL1 coach tire sports stylised football emblems and distinctive yellow Continental logos moulded into the sidewalls. But the benefits of the 295/80 R 22.5 HSL1 coach tire go much further than skin-deep. Specially-developed groove geometry ensures exceptionally low tire noise, while its wide footprint generates a particularly uniform contact pattern. The importance of tires is often underestimated, but they are the only connection between vehicle and road; these features will help to ensure that the world's best football players travel in comfort and arrive safely at the different match venues. For the coach operator, there is an additional advantage – the HSL1 tire exhibits very low rolling resistance, which translates to outstanding fuel economy.

“We received very positive feedback from the drivers of the eight team coaches that were fitted with our special edition HSL1 tire for the 2005 FIFA Confederations Cup Germany,” explained Irmgard Matzke, responsible for global marketing communications in the commercial vehicle tire sector at Continental. “As a result, all 32 of the Setra S 415 GT-HD and Mercedes Travego 2 team coaches for 2006 FIFA World Cup™ will be equipped with Continental HSL1 or HSR1 tires.”

“As true fans of both road transport and football, all of us at Continental are very excited about our involvement in the 2006 FIFA World Cup™,” commented Ralf Hoffmann, brand manager for the passenger car and light truck tire segment at Continental in Hanover. “Continental is one of just three German Official Partners of the event – and of these it is the sole representative of the automotive industry. This provides us with an excellent opportunity to present our company and products to a global audience, while at the same time demonstrating our passion and enthusiasm for sport.”

Continental offers comprehensive information about the 2006 FIFA World Cup™ at www.contisoccerworld.com, including detailed portraits of all 32 teams and their stars, exclusive interviews and reports, plus further news of Continental Corporation’s football-related activities.

About Continental Truck Tires

The Continental Corporation is a leading supplier of brake systems, chassis components, vehicle electronics, tyres and technical elastomers. In 2005 the corporation posted consolidated sales of €13.8 billion. It currently has a worldwide workforce of around 80,600 employees. As one of the largest producers of premium truck tires in Europe, Continental offers a wide range of high-performance products that suit the demands of heavy and light trucks, buses, coaches and off-road vehicles. Continental AG develops and manufactures tires under such brands as Continental, Uniroyal, Semperit and Barum and provides ContiBreakdown Service, established since 1978. The Passenger Tires division is an Official Partner of the 2006 FIFA World Cup Germany™.

More information about this partnership can be found on the Internet under www.conti-online.com as well as under www.contifanworld.com.

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