

**For immediate release**

May 21, 2019  
PR62-A02

## **Molten and Hiroshima Mazda HM Racers ink technical partnership agreement**



The "Hiromaz Demio" at the Suzuka SuperTaikyu Spring Round, the first race of the 2019 Pirelli SuperTaikyu Series

Automotive parts manufacturer Molten Corporation (Head Office: Nishi-ku, Hiroshima; President and CEO: Kiyofumi Tamiaki) has entered into a technical partnership agreement with Hiroshima Mazda HM Racers, which is currently competing in the 2019 Pirelli SuperTaikyu Series. Under the agreement, the company will supply a variety of functional parts going forward.

The first four parts to be supplied under the new agreement will be front and rear lower arm bushings, stabilizer bushings, and torsion beam arm bushings, all suspension parts that will increase cornering performance. The parts will be used in the redesigned Demio that HM Racers will be racing for the first time in the Super Tec 24-hour Race, the third race of the series being held at Fuji SpeedWay in Shizuoka Prefecture from May 31 to June 2.

### **Comments by Tetsuya Matsuda, Chairman and CEO of Hiroshima Mazda Co., Ltd.**

HM Racers, Hiroshima Mazda's racing team, was created in 2016. The team competed in the Global MX-5 Cup Japan, which was launched in 2017, and steadily increased their skills while amassing a track record of success. In 2018, HM Racers won two of the five races in the series (Race 4 at Okayama and Race 5 at Fuji).

Eager to evolve in new directions, the team will compete this year in the 2019 Pirelli SuperTaikyu Series, where they will look to take things to the next level.

It will be a great pleasure to race with parts from Molten while developing a vehicle capable of winning, which is no simple task. We look forward to undertaking this journey together and sharing the laurels with such a reliable partner.

### **Comments by Kiyofumi Tamiaki, President and CEO of Molten Corporation**

We were pleased when Hiroshima Mazda asked us to develop parts for the car it's racing in the 2019 Pirelli SuperTaikyu race. Molten has developed and manufactured automotive parts since 1958, and in recent years we've invested heavily in technology for controlling sound, vibration, and airflow (SVF). Recognizing the offer as an excellent opportunity to strengthen our development efforts as an automotive part manufacturer while gaining information about how parts perform under extreme conditions and what demanding drivers require by participating in endurance racing as a technical partner, we immediately accepted. Although it is the first experiment of its kind for us, we look forward to marshaling Molten's resources as we embrace the challenge of victory together with Hiroshima Mazda.

Inspired by its brand statement of "Fun and Functional," Molten has been building automotive parts for 60 years. Going forward, the company will continue to develop functional parts that let customers experience joy.

#### **■ Hiroshima Mazda HM Racers**

The team placed third at the Global MX-5 Cup Japan in 2017, its inaugural year. Then last year, its second, the team competed with two cars, one driven by Kota Sasaki and the other by Soichiro Yoshida. Sasaki won the fourth race in the series, and Yoshida the fifth, as the team finished second overall and advanced to the Global Mazda MX-5 Cup Challenge, the final race in the series at Sebring International Raceway in the U.S. This year, its third, the team will compete with the Demio for the first time in the Pirelli SuperTaikyu Series as it looks to advance to a new stage of its journey.



#### **This season's results**

**First race: Suzuka SuperTaikyu Spring Round (6th place)**

**Second race: Sugo SuperTaikyu 3-hour Race (2nd place)**

#### **■ Pirelli SuperTaikyu Series**

The SuperTaikyu Series, which was created in Japan in 1991 as a race for stock vehicles, is one of Japan's largest and longest running touring car races. The series, which is held every year, is divided into multiple vehicles classes based on displacement and drive type. Pirelli became the official tire supplier in 2018, and the series changed its name to the Pirelli SuperTaikyu Series.

(Official website: <https://supertaikyu.com/>)

## ■ Molten

Molten, whose core technologies include hollow-body technology and rubber and resin processing technology, has manufactured and sold sports supplies such as competition balls and automotive parts since its founding in 1958. Having entered the healthcare and welfare market in 1991, the company seeks to make the world a better place by manufacturing products in a range of fields.

More information is available on Molten's website. URL: [www.molten.co.jp](http://www.molten.co.jp)

## ■ Automotive parts business

Reflecting its commitment to giving shape to customers' needs by making automobiles more enjoyable and functional as captured in its brand statement of "Fun and Functional," Molten develops technologies to control sound, vibration, and airflow and supplies a range of parts fabricated primarily from rubber and resin. With facilities in Japan, the United States, Mexico, Thailand, China, and Vietnam, the company earns high praise in the global marketplace. (Attachment: Awards since 2016)

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■ Awards since 2016

	Recipient	Customer	Award		
2016	Head Office (Japan)	Mazda Motor Corporation	Exceptional Supplier Award	Two years running	
		Sumitomo Wiring Systems, Ltd.	Overall Excellence Award, Excellence in Quality Award		
	Molten Asia Polymer Products Co., Ltd. (Thailand)	AutoAlliance (Thailand) Co., Ltd.	Top Supplier Award		
		MITSUBISHI MOTORS (THAILAND) CO.,LTD.	Exceptional Effort Quality Improvement		
		Toyota Parts Center Asia Pacific	Total service parts performance		
		SEAPS (THAILAND) CP.,LTD	Claim Zero Award, Excellent Quality		
		ROKI (THAILAND) Co., Ltd.	Cost Best Award		
		General Motors Company	Quality Excellence Award		
	Molten Jiaxing Co., Ltd. (China)	Huizhou Zhurun Wiring Systems Co., Ltd.	Outstanding Supplier Award		
		Changan Mazda Engine Co., Ltd.	Quality Assurance Improvement Presentations Excellence Award		
Molten Automotive de Mexico, S.A. de C.V. (Mexico)	Mazda de Mexico Vehicle Operation	Suppliers of Excellence	Two years running		
2017	Head Office (Japan)	Mazda Motor Corporation	Exceptional Supplier Award	Three years running	
		Mahle Filter Systems Japan Corp.	Supplier Excellence Award		
		Furukawa Electric Co., Ltd.	Strategic Partner Certification		
	Molten Asia Polymer Products Co., Ltd. (Thailand)	AutoAlliance (Thailand) Co., Ltd.	Top Supplier Award	Two years running	
		MITSUBISHI MOTORS (THAILAND) CO.,LTD.	Exceptional Effort Quality Improvement		
		Toyota Parts Center Asia Pacific	Total service parts performance		
		SEAPS (THAILAND) CP.,LTD	Claim Zero Award, Excellent Quality		
		ROKI (THAILAND) Co., Ltd.	Cost Best Award		
		General Motors Company	Quality Excellence Award		
	Molten Jiaxing Co., Ltd. (China)	Huizhou Zhurun Wiring Systems Co., Ltd.	Outstanding Supplier Award		
		Changan Mazda Engine Co., Ltd.	Excellence in Quality Award		
	Molten Automotive de Mexico, S.A. de C.V. (Mexico)	Mazda de Mexico Vehicle Operation	Suppliers of Excellence	Three years running	
	2018	Head Office (Japan)	Mazda Motor Corporation	Exceptional Supplier Award	Four years running
				Award for Numerous VA/VE Proposals	
Sumitomo Wiring Systems, Ltd.			Excellence in Lead Time Award		
Furukawa Electric Co., Ltd.			Strategic Partner Certification		
Roki Co., Ltd.			Excellence Award		
Molten Asia Polymer Products Co., Ltd. (Thailand)		Showa Corporation	Excellence in Quality Award	Three years running	
		AutoAlliance (Thailand) Co., Ltd.	Top Supplier Award		
		MITSUBISHI MOTORS (THAILAND) CO.,LTD.	Exceptional Effort Quality Improvement		
		Toyota Parts Center Asia Pacific	Total service parts performance		
Molten Automotive de Mexico, S.A. de C.V. (Mexico)		ROKI (THAILAND) Co., Ltd.	Quality Award, Delivery Award	Four years running	
		Mazda de Mexico Vehicle Operation	Suppliers of Excellence		
2019	Head Office (Japan)	Mazda Motor Corporation	Excellence in Quality Award	Five years running	
			Exceptional Supplier Award (5 years running)		
			Award for Numerous VA/VE Proposals		
		Daihatsu Motor Kyushu Co., Ltd.	Excellence Award		
	Molten Midori K.K. (Japan)	Mazda Motor Corporation	J-ABC Annual Excellence Award		
	Molten Jiaxing Co., Ltd. (China)	GAC Mitsubishi Motors Co., Ltd. (GMMC)	Excellence Award		
	Molten Asia Polymer Products Co., Ltd. (Thailand)	AutoAlliance (Thailand) Co., Ltd.	Top Supplier Award	Four years running	
			Quality Award		
		Toyota Parts Center Asia Pacific	Total service parts performance		
		Daikyo Nishikawa (Thailand) Co., Ltd	Quality Award, Delivery Award		
		General Motors Company	Quality Excellence Award		
	ROKI (THAILAND) Co., Ltd.	Cost reduction improvement Award			