



# JUERGEN LAUTENBACH

OUR SERIES OF INTERVIEWS WITH SOME OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN RC CAR RACING CONTINUES THIS ISSUE WITH THE FOUNDER OF LRP – JUERGEN LAUTENBACH

**A**fter a very successful RC racing career, Juergen Lautenbach started his own company in Germany manufacturing electronic speed controllers, receivers, motors, chargers and batteries. The LRP range of products are now considered to be some of the most technologically advanced available and have powered many of today's top drivers to victories in countless European and World championships. Juergen can now often be seen at major race meetings managing his team drivers and is always happy to help out anyone running LRP equipment. We caught up with Juergen at the recent Touring Car Euro's in Vichy to ask him a few questions about himself and his company.

**What do the initials LRP stand for?**  
Lautenbach Racing Products.

**When did you start your company LRP?**  
When I was 17 and in school, I started to play with electric motors and find out how they work. At first I started to modify them, and then I started to develop and make my own. I used to test them out by racing with them myself.  
1987 - I left university because I was running out of time because the demand for our motors and batteries was increasing.  
1989 - I became top European at the 4WD Off-Road World Championships in Sydney, Australia by finishing 5th.

1990 - I made a major breakthrough by winning 3 out of 4 European Championships (2WD and 4WD Off Road, and Pro-10, still an unbeaten record) using LRP motors, batteries and a prototype LRP speed controller.

1991 - Biggest victory ever: I won the 2WD Worlds warm-up in Detroit, USA. We then went on to use an LRP production speed controller for the first time at that year's World Championships.

1995 - Breakthrough on world stage with the LRP ICS speed controller by taking TQ and winning 2WD (Matt Francis) and 4WD (Mark Pavidis) at the Off-Road World Championships in Japan.

1998 - Change in company. Additional to LRP manufacturing, we started distributing HPI products into the German and Austrian market.

2000 - Quantum speed controller launched. LRP now has a total of 43 employees and distribute in 52 countries.

**Your company's slogan is 'blue is better'. Why are all your products coloured blue?**

We actually started with a big pink star as a logo, and our motors had black and blue stickers on. I don't know why we started using blue. It just

seemed to work the best and have a good quality look. In 1997 we wanted to give our products a corporate approach, with a high-tech look and easy to identify appearance. When you look into a RC car from 2m distance you have to realise a LRP product is inside.

**What is your favourite class of RC car racing?**  
Definitely 4WD Off-Road.

**Do you ever get the chance to race now?**  
I drive RC cars a lot during product development, where I'm heavily involved. Other than that unfortunately I don't have the time to race anymore.



**Why did you decide to give up racing and was it a hard decision?**

Indeed it was very hard decision. Initially when I started the company the whole purpose was to make some money to go to races all over the world. My goal was to become World Champion and I dedicated my life to that. In '89 and '91 I came 'reasonably' close being 5th and 6th at the Off-Road World Championships. At that time the interest for our motors, batteries and speedos had already been that high that I had to decide whether to continue racing at the top or run a business professionally and I decided after a year thinking, and losing a lot of sleep, to go for the latter.

**The LRP range of products seems to be growing all the time. What exciting new things can we expect from LRP in the future?**

We are just starting to expand into the RC plane and boat markets with a radical new line of speed controllers as well as a range of plane motors. We already have some boat motors on the market with a speed controller range following soon. And for cars the long awaited Quantum Series will be out soon.

**Your range of electronic speed controllers are widely acknowledged as being some of the most advanced available. Do you think speed controller technology will advance much further?**  
Yes, this will happen all the time as electronic components develop. Size will go down, and they will become more user friendly.

**What do you see as the future for RC car racing?**  
There is a lot of potential for our exciting sport of model car racing to reach a large public audience if it is professionally presented in the right way. This is something we must all work hard to achieve.

**There are a few drivers who have been at the top of the sport for some time. Who do you see as the next Masami Hirotsuka or David Spashett?**  
Difficult one. There are many promising talents out there, but due to the nature of RC car racing it's very difficult to tell early who can go all the way, but I'm sure there will be lots of new talent coming through soon.

**What other hobbies or interests do you have outside of RC cars?**

I spend most of my time running LRP and travelling to races all over the world which I enjoy very much. I also like to relax sometimes and enjoy some good food and I also like driving.

**We know you are interested in full-size motor sport. What is your favourite type and do you have a favourite team or driver?**

Yes, I like Formula One in which I support the Ferrari team and Michael Schumacher. I also enjoy watching Superbike racing and I support Noriyuki Haga and Pierfrancesco Chili in this. *Model Cars Plus would like to thank Juergen for taking the time to answer our questions and wish him and LRP good luck in the future.*