



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information Contact
Scott Black at TimePiece PR
(214) 520-3430 (ext. 303)

PANOZ ESPERANTE GTS SPEC RACER TO MOVE TO SCCA'S GT2 CLASS

Organization Reclassifies Racing Version of America's Sports Car

Hoschton, GA – January 8, 2004 – The Sports Car Club of America has moved the Panoz Esperante GTS to its Grand Touring 2 class for the 2004 racing season. The Esperante GTS, which was developed specifically for use in SCCA club events nation wide, previously competed in the GT1 class. Panoz Auto Development, America's premier independent manufacturer of hand built, high performance automobiles, builds Esperante sports and racecars near Atlanta, Georgia.

The Panoz Esperante GTS is eligible to compete in the Panoz Racing Series and SCCA GT2 class. Built from the ground up as a driver's class spec racer, the tube-frame GT racecar meets all SCCA technical and safety requirements. The Esperante GTS comes race-ready and sells for about \$60,000 from authorized SCCA Enterprises dealers and select Panoz dealers.

It features a unique body comprised of fifteen ABS/Acrylic panels, making it more durable, less expensive, and easier to replace than fiberglass. The car has an eight-point roll cage with triple tube side-protection and working doors. Weighing in at just 2,685 lbs., the Panoz GTS is powered by a Ford Motorsports 5.8 liter, 16-valve V8 capable of 385 bhp at 5,750 rpm.

"We're pleased that the SCCA reclassified the Panoz Esperante GTS from GT1 to GT2," said Dan Panoz, President of Panoz Auto Development. "We believe this class better suits the Esperante's power to weight ratio. This is great news for those who race the robust and cost-effective car, as well as those who are considering the Panoz Esperante GTS for future racing activities.

(more)

Panoz Esperante GTS Reclassified by SCCA (2/2)

“The GTS will compete in its current configuration, without any modifications or restrictors,” added Joel Grewett, Panoz GTS Program Manager. “Each GTS must still meet our production specifications and have all factory seals in place. However, there are no costly changes required to be competitive and battle wheel-to-wheel with Porsches, BMWs and other top sports cars.”

The Panoz Esperante GTS is a race version of the acclaimed Panoz Esperante road car, which is available in three models of both convertible and coupe. Standard equipment on the racecar includes 17 inch aluminum BBS RK wheels shod with Michelin Pilot slicks and Dual-piston aluminum PBR calipers with Brembo vented rotors. Other features include a Fittipaldi 3-spoke steering wheel with quick release, Wilwood brake bias control system, Autometer 2-5/8" Ultra Lite gauges, Fuel Safe fuel cell with bladder located within chassis rails, 5-point safety harness, driver's side window net and manual Halon fire extinguisher system.

About Panoz Auto Development

Panoz Auto Development is America's premier independent manufacturer of hand-built, high performance automobiles. The Georgia-based company manufactures Esperante sports and racecars for domestic and international markets. The competition division, Panoz Motor Sports, has a rich heritage in the ALMS, FIA GT, SCCA's Trans-Am series and the 24 hours of LeMans.

Additional information about Panoz and its products is available at www.panozauto.com or by calling Scott Black at (214) 520-3430.

###

Panoz Esperante GTS

Specifications:

SAFETY

Fuel Safe fuel cell with bladder located within chassis rails

3-inch, 5-point safety harness

Driver's side window net

Manual Halon fire extinguisher system

Driver and remote battery kill key

Remote battery boost connector

BODY & CHASSIS

Layout: Front mid-engine, RWD, two-door coupe.

Body: Lightweight, damage-resistant ABS plastic with acrylic exterior layer; 15 easily replaceable panels with standardized mounting points; safety glass windshield; clear acrylic rear window; front brake cooling ducts; left and right side mirrors; opening doors

Chassis: 1.75(43.75mm) x 1.75, .090(2.25 mm) Wall, Mild Steel Space Frame
1.75x .095 DOM 8-point roll cage w/triple tube side protection 18-gauge interior panels, welded in. Meets all SCCA tech and safety requirements.

ENGINE & DRIVETRAIN

Engine: Ford Racing 5.81/351 GT-40

Displacement: 5.8 Liters/351cid (5,768cc)

Horsepower @ rpm: 385 bhp @ 5,750rpm

Torque @ rpm: 377 @4,500rpm

Compression Ratio: 9.5:1

Bore x Stroke: 4.00 in. x 3.5 in. (101.6 mm x 90.0 mm)

Cylinder Heads: Aluminum GT-40

Ignition: MSD 6ALN Ignition Control

Transmission: Tremec TKO - plus 5-speed manual

Panoz Esperante GTS

Specifications continued:

Gear Ratios: 1st: 3.27:1 2nd: 1.98:1
3rd: 1.34:1 4th: 1.00:1 5th: 0.83:1
Carburetion: Holley 4 bbl., 750cfm Double Pump carburetor
Final Drive: 3.50:1, Ford 9-inch w/Trac Lock
Lines: Steel braided fuel, oil and brake lines

SUSPENSION, WHEELS & TIRES

Front: Unequal length A Arm Penske single adjustable coil-over shock absorbers
Two-position adjustable sway bar, 1.25" diameter.
Rear: Live axle located by trailing arms and Watts Link Penske single adjustable
coil-over shock absorbers Three-position adjustable sway bar, 0.75"
diameter.
Wheels: BBS 17 x 9-inch (425 x 225 mm) aluminum
Tires: Michelin Pilot Slicks 275/40R17

BRAKES

Front: Brembo 4 Piston hydraulic calipers 13-inch (328 mm) vented steel rotors
with Hawk pads
Rear: Brembo 4 Piston hydraulic calipers 12.5-inch (320 mm) vented steel
rotors with Hawk pads
Lines: Steel braided fuel, oil and brake lines
Control System: Wilwood brake bias control system

STEERING

Type Rack and pinion
Turns lock-to-lock: 3
Ratio: 15:1

Panoz Esperante GTS
Specifications continued:

INTERIOR

Gauges: Autometer Ultra Lite gauges and 10k rpm Monster Tach
Steering Wheel: Fittipaldi 3-spoke steering wheel with quick release
Accents: Single electric wiper; illuminating taillights and brake lights
Seats: Aluminum, high support one piece racing seat in various widths

DIMENSIONS & CAPACITIES

Wheelbase: 107.6 in. (2690 mm)
Track (f/r): 63.0/65.8 in. (1575/1645 mm)
Overall Length: 170.0 in. (4250 mm)
Overall Width: 78.0 in. (1,950 mm)
Overall Height: 51.0 in. (1,275 mm)
Curb Weight: 2,685 lbs. (1,217 kg.)
Fuel Capacity: 32.0 gal. (121.6 L)