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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## The Revolution

**FOOTHILL RANCH, Calif. (September 23, 2016)** – Back in the 1970s and 1980s, motocross riders had a few choice nicknames for four-stroke motocross bikes. “Thumpers” was a kind one, but less flattering labels like “anchors” and “sleds” also prevailed. As for some others, we’ll leave them to your imagination! Fortunately, this all changed for good as the four-stroke revolution began, ultimately including Kawasaki’s launch of the KX™250F in 2004 and KX™450F in 2006.

Built around high-revving, short-stroke single-cylinder engines with dual overhead camshafts, four valves, slipper pistons and liquid cooling, this new MX breed strongly borrowed from high-output supersport and superbike technology. Boiled down to the essence, they were slices off a road-racing engine. Sharing the lineup with Kawasaki’s 65cc to 250cc KX™ two-stroke models, the new four-strokes immediately expanded the appeal of the Team Green™ program for amateur racers, while giving pros a choice of battle weapons.

Pro racing victories for the KX250F motorcycle started immediately, with Ivan Tedesco winning the 2004 AMA 250 Supercross West championship, James Stewart sweeping the final round of the 2004 AMA 250 Motocross outdoor series, and Grant Langston taking the 2005 AMA 250 Supercross East championship. The KX450F model also scored quickly, as Stewart added an AMA 450 Supercross title in 2007 and an AMA 450 Motocross championship in 2008. Most incredible, though, was Ryan Villopoto’s four consecutive premier-class Supercross titles from 2011 to 2014. All told, the Lime Green KX four-stroke motorcycles won 25 AMA Motocross and Supercross titles in just over a decade.

After its initial launch, Kawasaki constantly advanced the KX250F, with a major redesign including an aluminum perimeter frame for 2006, and fuel injection and a Showa Separate Function Fork (SFF) for 2011. The KX450F debuted with an aluminum frame, then added a five-speed gearbox for 2007, fuel injection for 2009, and selectable power modes and Launch Control for 2012.

The KX250F motorcycle received a complete makeover for 2017, with more power, narrower dimensions, reduced weight and Launch Control, inspiring *Dirt Rider* magazine to call it “really fun

and fast,” and “more responsive and easier to ride.” After a full redo in 2016, the 2017 KX450F also receives multiple upgrades, with *Transworld Motocross* magazine labeling it “one of the best-handling Kawasakis we’ve ever ridden.”

Not bad, for a couple of thumpers.



**2004 KX250F**



**2006 KX450F**



**James Stewart's 2004 KX250F**

## **ABOUT KAWASAKI**

Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd. (KHI) started full-scale production of motorcycles over a half century ago. The first Kawasaki motorcycle engine was designed based on technical know-how garnered from the development and production of aircraft engines, and Kawasaki's entry into the motorcycle industry was driven by the company's constant effort to develop new technologies. Numerous new Kawasaki models introduced over the years have helped shape the market, and in the process have created enduring legends based on their unique engineering, power, design and riding pleasure. In the future, Kawasaki's commitment to maintaining and furthering these strengths will surely give birth to new legends.

Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (KMC) markets and distributes Kawasaki motorcycles, ATVs, side x sides, and Jet Ski® watercraft through a network of approximately 1,100 independent retailers, with close to an additional 7,700 retailers specializing in general purpose engines. KMC and its affiliates employ nearly 3,100 people in the United States, with approximately 260 of them located at KMC's Foothill Ranch, California headquarters.

Kawasaki's tagline, "Let the good times roll.®", is recognized worldwide. The Kawasaki brand is synonymous with powerful, stylish and category-leading vehicles. Information about Kawasaki's complete line of powersports products and Kawasaki affiliates can be found on the Internet at [www.kawasaki.com](http://www.kawasaki.com).