



Communication Motorsport

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60th pole position for Audi in the DTM

- **Mattias Ekström at the Nürburgring again on grid position one**
- **Strong: Six Audi A4 DTM cars on the top eight grid positions**
- **First pole position of the year for Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline**

Ingolstadt/Nürburg, August 6, 2011 – Jubilee for Audi: Mattias Ekström clinched the 60th pole position in the DTM for the brand with the four rings at the Nürburgring. In changeable weather the Swede from Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline set the fastest time by far in Saturday’s qualifying. With six A4 DTM cars on the top eight grid positions Audi showed a strong overall team performance.

Mattias Ekström is back: A week after winning the 24-hour race at Spa-Francorchamps at the wheel of an Audi R8 LMS together with Timo Scheider and Greg Franchi the Swede secured the pole position for the sixth round of the DTM. Ekström last started into a race from the top grid position exactly one year ago, also at the Nürburgring.

“Today simply everything fit perfectly and my team always made exactly the right decisions,” raved the two-time DTM champion. In view of the difficult conditions this was anything but an easy feat. Drizzling rain repeatedly set in. Particularly the first and last qualifying segments became a gamble.

As early as in Q3 Ekström was the front runner although he only drove one timed lap in order to save his tires for the final shoot-out for pole. On the partially moist track he subsequently put a more than three-second gap between himself and Mercedes driver Jamie Green.

Ekström’s team-mate Mike Rockenfeller secured position three on the grid. In Q4 the 2010 Le Mans winner made a mistake in turn one. In the end he was merely lacking 298 thousandths of a second to position two. “Naturally, it would have been even nicer to start from the front row together with ‘Eki’,” said “Rocky.” “But third place is also a good starting base for the race.”



Another Audi driver, Edoardo Mortara (Audi Sport Team Rosberg), almost managed the leap into the top four as well. A small mistake at the beginning of his second timed lap in Q3 though cost the crucial time. By clinching position five the DTM rookie nonetheless achieved the second-best qualifying result in his still young career.

Miguel Molina, Martin Tomczyk (Audi Sport Team Phoenix) and Timo Scheider completed Audi's strong qualifying result. Tomczyk, the runner-up in the standings, was the quickest driver in Q1 and second in Q2, but then failed to achieve his personal best time again in Q3. "It was very difficult today in the changing conditions," said Tomczyk. "But anything is still possible from position seven."

Filipe Albuquerque is starting from position twelve. Oliver Jarvis in Q1 went out too late again on the track as it was drying off after a rain shower and thus dropped to position 15. By taking position 16 Rahel Frey equalized her so far best qualifying result in the DTM in difficult conditions.

"It was very difficult for everyone today and Q4 was no doubt a bit of a gamble," commented Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. "But before then we already had six Audi cars in the top eight. That 'Eki' clinched pole in the end by delivering a perfect lap in these difficult conditions was a fantastic performance."

The Audi Group delivered around 1,092,400 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2010. The Company posted revenue of €35.4 billion and an operating profit of €3.3 billion in 2010. In the first half of 2011, the Audi Group sold 652,970 vehicles bearing the four rings worldwide and achieved record figures in terms of revenue (€21.5 billion) and operating profit (€2.5 billion). Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). Aurangabad in India saw the start of CKD production of the Audi A6 at the end of 2007, of the Audi A4 in early October 2008 and of the Audi Q5 in July 2010. Production of the new Audi A1 has been running at the Brussels plant since May 2010. The Audi Q3 has been built in Martorell (Spain) since June 2011. The Company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG's wholly owned subsidiaries include AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft., Automobili Lamborghini Holding S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese (Italy) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi currently employs around 60,000 people worldwide, including around 46,600 in Germany. Between 2011 and 2015 the brand with the four rings is planning to invest more than €11 billion, mainly in new products, in order to sustain the Company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" slogan. By 2015, Audi plans to increase the number of models in its portfolio to 42.

Audi has long been fulfilling its social responsibility on many levels – with the aim of making the future worth living for generations to come. The basis for Audi's lasting success is therefore formed by environmental protection, the conservation of resources, international competitiveness and a forward-looking human resources policy. One example of AUDI AG's commitment to environmental issues is the newly established Audi Environmental Foundation. Under the heading of "Audi balanced mobility," the Company is directing its activities toward a major goal – comprehensive CO₂-neutral mobility.