

Communications Motorsport

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A4 times four – Audi on pole again

- **Fourth consecutive pole position for the Audi A4 DTM at Zandvoort**
- **Timo Scheider on position one for the first time this year**
- **Youngster Miguel Molina shines with position four**

Ingolstadt/Zandvoort, August 21, 2010 – The champion is back – and how! With a record lead of almost seven tenths of a second Audi driver Timo Scheider commandingly clinched the pole position for the DTM race at Zandvoort (Sunday, starting at 1:45 p.m. – local time – on “Das Erste”). Audi thus continued an impressive string of qualifying results: for the fourth consecutive time an Audi A4 DTM will start from the pole position on the Dutch North Sea coast.

Timo Scheider had to wait for this moment exactly 60 weeks. The reigning DTM Champion clinched his last pole position on June 27, 2009 at the Norisring in Nuremberg. On his favorite track at Zandvoort, where he took his first DTM pole position in 2003 and his first as an Audi driver in 2007, Scheider delivered an impressive comeback. With a perfect qualifying lap he relegated last year’s winner Gary Paffett to position two by 0.696 seconds.

“We’re back, that’s a good feeling,” said Scheider with tears in his eyes. After a difficult start to the season the title defender made it into the final qualifying segment (Q4) for the first time this year and was able to fully take advantage of the qualities of his Audi A4 DTM and secured his third pole position at Zandvoort. In total, it was his eighth in the DTM. “I arrived here with a good feeling – and so far it hasn’t misled me,” says Scheider. “Now I want to finally win here tomorrow too, because I’ve always wanted to do that at Zandvoort.”

By taking its third pole position in total this year, Audi has equalized Mercedes-Benz in the qualifying duel which now reflects a score of 3:3 and delivered a good team performance on the whole. With Miguel Molina, Mattias Ekström and Oliver Jarvis on grid positions four, five and six, four Audi A4 DTM cars of Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline will start into the race from the first three rows.

“I’m particularly pleased with Timo’s (Scheider) pole position,” commented Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “Timo suggested as early as in the past few races that he shouldn’t be written off. Today, he impressively confirmed this. And the performance of our youngest driver, Miguel Molina, is remarkable as well.”

The driver who at the age of 21 is the youngest racer in the field finished among the top four in qualifying for the first time in his still young DTM career and in fourth place was the quickest driver of a 2008-specification car.

Mattias Ekström will start into the race from grid position five. After a dominant fastest time in the morning’s free practice the Swede experienced a roller-coaster ride in qualifying: in Q1 he needed two sets of tires in order to advance, and in Q2 he was the only driver to just require one. After two small mistakes in Q3 the Swede will start into the race from position five. Oliver Jarvis completes the Audi quartet on the first three rows of the grid on position six.

Mike Rockenfeller, Martin Tomczyk, Markus Winkelhock, Alexandre Prémat and Katherine Legge will start from positions nine, ten, twelve, 13 and 15.

The Audi Group sold around 950,000 cars of the Audi brand in 2009. The Company posted revenue of €29.8 billion and an operating profit of €1.6 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 and of the Audi A4 in early October 2008. Production of the new Audi A1 has been running at the Brussels plant since May 2010. 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 58,000 people worldwide, including 45,500 in Germany. Between 2010 and 2012 the Audi Group is planning to invest around €5.5 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.