

Communications Motorsport

Jürgen Pippig

Telephone: +49 (0)841 89 34200

E-mail: motorsport-media@audi.de

www.audi-motorsport.info

Eva-Maria Veith

Telephone: +49 (0)841 89 33922

E-mail: eva-maria.veith@audi.de

Audi as title defender at Bathurst in 2012

- **Two Audi R8 LMS cars to compete at the Bathurst 12 Hours**
- **Phoenix Racing to make debut in Australia with R8 LMS**
- **Strong driver line-up of local and international drivers**

Ingolstadt, November 18, 2011 – The Audi R8 LMS will return to Australia as the title defender. After the one-two result at the Bathurst 12 Hours last February, the successful GT3 sports car will again compete at the endurance classic from February 24 to 26. The high-caliber driver line-up has already been confirmed.

Both sports cars on the front row, a one-two result with a one-lap lead and a new lap record on the challenging track: The Audi R8 LMS delivered an impeccable showing on its debut at Mount Panorama nine months ago. In February 2012, the 411 kW (560 HP) GT3 sports car is to defend its victory on this legendary circuit. The customer sports car that is fielded at worldwide events has meanwhile clinched 115 single victories and twelve titles in only three years. At Bathurst, Team Phoenix Racing will be fielding the two Audi R8 LMS vehicles. As an Audi factory team, Ernst Moser's squad won the DTM title this year with Martin Tomczyk.

A top-caliber international driver line-up has already been confirmed for the 12-hour race. The German Christopher Mies and Darryl O'Young from Hong Kong, who won the endurance race in February, will again share a cockpit. They will be reinforced by Christer Jöns. The German driver clinched four podium results this year in the ADAC GT Masters and, like Christopher Mies, was part of the Audi factory team at the Nürburgring 24 Hours.

Of special interest to the enthusiastic Australian audience will be the driver squad for the second R8 LMS. Mark Eddy/Craig Lowndes/Warren Luff will be competing under the symbol of the four rings together for the second consecutive time. Before the finale next weekend, Mark Eddy is leading the Australian GT Championship in his own Audi R8 LMS with a 46-point advantage. The seasoned touring car racer Warren Luff posted the fastest lap of all Audi drivers in qualifying at Bathurst in 2011. Craig Lowndes is regarded as a touring car legend and has won the V8 Supercar series



three times and the Bathurst 1000 race five times. The trio finished the Bathurst 12 Hours as the runners-up in February.

– End –

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.