



**Communications Motorsport**

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## **Audi before race debut of the Audi R8 LMS and first 24-hour races of the GT season**

- **First fielding of GT3 race car in VLN opener**
- **Phoenix Racing and Belgian Audi Club Team WRT are race teams**
- **Strong driver line-up for the 24-hour races at the Nürburgring and at Spa**

**Ingolstadt, March 23, 2015 – On March 28, the new Audi R8 LMS will be facing its baptism of fire in the VLN Endurance Championship Nürburgring. Seven weeks later, one of Germany’s major races will follow, with four new R8 LMS cars battling for success in the Nürburgring 24 Hours on May 16 and 17. On July 25 and 26, the world’s major GT3 race, the Spa 24 Hours, will be held. On board: four driver squads with Le Mans winners, an FIA WEC World Champion and Audi Champions from DTM and GT racing.**

The Audi R8 LMS was in the spotlight at the Geneva Motor Show just recently, at the beginning of the month, and about three weeks later it has to prove itself for the first time in the ‘Green Hell’ of the Nürburgring. The Audi R8 LMS will be competing there on the last weekend in March. In the opening race of the VLN Endurance Championship, the Belgian Audi Club Team WRT and Team Phoenix Racing will each be fielding one of the brand new GT3 race cars. Both teams have excellent references. The Belgian team of Vincent Vosse decided the Spa 24 Hours in its favor last year, while Ernst Moser’s Phoenix squad based in the Eifel won the endurance race on its doorstep.

“Our new Audi R8 LMS is ready for a rigorous testing program in racing conditions,” says Romolo Liebchen, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. “We selected the two toughest 24-hour races in Europe that GT3 cars are permitted to compete in. In Phoenix Racing and the Belgian Audi Club Team WRT we’ve got two teams that have been spoiled by success at our side. Towards the end of the year we’re going to deliver a powerful new race car to our customers.”



Successful Audi race drivers from various motorsport series are going to take turns at the wheel of the Audi R8 LMS in the events at the Nürburgring and at Spa. The former DTM Champion Mike Rockenfeller and his fellow Audi driver Nico Müller, the Le Mans winners Marcel Fässler and Stéphane Ortelli, WEC driver René Rast, last year's winners at the Nürburgring and at Spa, plus many other top-caliber GT drivers are completing the line-up of both teams.

In addition, the new Audi R8 LMS will be competing in selected other races in the 2015 season, such as the second VLN race on April 25 and individual rounds of the Blancpain Endurance Series.

### **The driver line-ups of Audi Sport customer racing**

#### **March 28, 2015, VLN 1**

##### **Belgian Audi Club Team WRT**

Christer Jöns/Nico Müller/Edward Sandström/Nicki Thiim (D/CH/S/DK)

##### **Phoenix Racing**

Marc Basseng/Christopher Haase/Mike Rockenfeller/Frank Stippler (D/D/D/D)

#### **May 16–17, 2015, Nürburgring 24 Hours**

##### **Belgian Audi Club Team WRT**

Christopher Mies/Nico Müller/Edward Sandström/Laurens Vanthoor (D/CH/S/B)

Christer Jöns/Pierre Kaffer/Nicki Thiim/Laurens Vanthoor (D/D/DK/B)

##### **Phoenix Racing**

Christopher Haase/Christian Mamerow/René Rast/Markus Winkelhock (D/D/D/D)

Marc Basseng/Marcel Fässler/Mike Rockenfeller/Frank Stippler (D/CH/D/D)

#### **July 25–26, 2015, Spa 24 Hours**

##### **Belgian Audi Club Team WRT**

René Rast/Laurens Vanthoor/Markus Winkelhock (D/B/D)

Nico Müller/Stéphane Ortelli/Frank Stippler (CH/MC/D)

##### **Phoenix Racing**

Marcel Fässler/Christian Mamerow/Mike Rockenfeller (CH/D/D)

Christopher Haase/Christopher Mies/Nicki Thiim (D/D/DK)



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In 2014, the Audi Group delivered approximately 1,741,100 cars of the Audi brand to its customers. The company achieved revenue of €53.8 billion and an operating profit of €5.15 billion in 2014. Audi operates globally in more than 100 markets and has production facilities in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Brussels (Belgium), Bratislava (Slovakia), Martorell (Spain), Kaluga (Russia), Aurangabad (India), Changchun and Foshan (China) as well as Jakarta (Indonesia). The brand with the Four Rings will start producing cars in Curitiba (Brazil) this year and in San José Chiapa (Mexico) in 2016. Wholly owned subsidiaries of AUDI AG include quattro GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy) and sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy). The company currently employs approximately 80,000 people worldwide, thereof around 58,000 in Germany. Total investment of about €24 billion is planned from 2015 to 2019 – primarily in new products and sustainable technologies. Audi is committed to its corporate responsibility and has anchored the principle of sustainability for its products and processes in its strategy. The long-term goal is CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral mobility.