



**Communications Motorsport**

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## **Audi completes Le Mans preparations**

- **Three Audi R18 e-tron quattro cars ready for 24-hour race**
- **Rainy weather limits test program**
- **Marco Bonanomi tests tire generation for 2014**

**Ingolstadt/Le Mans, June 9, 2013 – Audi completed its preparations for the most important endurance race of the year with a test in France that was largely held in rain. Two weeks before the Le Mans 24 Hours, Audi Sport Team Joest set up the long-tail version of the Audi R18 e-tron quattro for the high-speed track on the eight-hour test day.**

On a mostly wet Sunday at La Sarthe, the team of the eleven-time Le Mans winner concentrated on testing various aerodynamic set-up versions of the Audi R18 e-tron quattro. In addition, the engineers experimented with different tire pressures in order to analyze the performance of the rain tires on a single lap and across longer distances. When showers set in, the team decided to end the morning's practice session early. The track conditions were too inconsistent, as Loïc Duval came to find out too in an off-track excursion in the Tertre Rouge corner toward the end of the first half of the day. His car, designated as number 2, remained structurally undamaged in the incident and was ready to resume the test after the lunch break.

In the afternoon, there was only slow improvement of the weather situation. It was only possible to use dry tires on the tradition-steeped track in the last 90 minutes. The three R18 e-tron quattro cars finished the test day in the top three positions. Despite the prevailing rainy weather conditions car number 4 also gathered important findings for the future. Audi factory driver Marco Bonanomi in the black R18 e-tron quattro tested the new tire generation by partner Michelin for 2014.

“We traveled to the test day in order to work through various programs and to learn something in the process,” said Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich in summing up the day. “Unfortunately, due to the unsteady weather, we didn't even come close to being able to try out all the planned options. It only became dry toward the end. Loïc Duval ultimately found a free lap, and he managed to set the



fastest time. But only in the race we'll really see where we stand."

### **Results of the test day**

- 1 Duval/Kristensen/McNish (Audi R18 e-tron quattro), 3m 22.583s
- 2 Gené/di Grassi/Jarvis (Audi R18 e-tron quattro), 3m 25.358s
- 3 Fässler/Lotterer/Tréluyer (Audi R18 e-tron quattro), 3m 25.647s
- 4 Buemi/Davidson/Sarrazin (Toyota), 3m 27.581s
- 5 Bonanomi (Audi R18 e-tron quattro), 3m 27.894s
- 6 Lapierre/Nakajima/Wurz (Toyota), 3m 29.593s
- 7 Heidfeld/Jani/Prost (Lola-Toyota), 3m 31.967s
- 8 Beche/Belicchi/Cheng (Lola-Toyota), 3m 34.724s
- 9 Kane/Leventis/Watts (HPD-Honda), 3m 35.631s
- 10 Brundle/Heinemeier-Hansson/Pla (Morgan-Nissan), 3m 38.801s

- End -

The Audi Group delivered 1,455,123 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2012. In 2012, the company posted revenue of €48.8 billion and an operating profit of €5.4 billion. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). The Audi Q7 is built in Bratislava (Slovakia). In November 2012, CKD production of the Audi Q7 was added to the existing Audi A4, A6 and Q5 manufacturing operations in Aurangabad (India). At the Brussels plant, production of the Audi A1 has been running since 2010, while production of the new A1 Sportback began in 2012. 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. (Győr, Hungary), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy), AUDI BRUSSELS S.A./N.V. (Brussels, Belgium), quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm and the sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy). Audi currently employs more than 70,000 people worldwide, including around 50,000 in Germany. The brand with the four rings plans to invest a total of around €11 billion by 2015 - mainly in new products and the expansion of production capacities - in order to sustain the company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" claim. Audi is currently expanding its site in Győr (Hungary) and will start production in Foshan (China) in late 2013 and in San José Chiapa (Mexico) in 2016.

Audi lives up to its corporate responsibility and regards sustainability not only as a basis for financial success, but also as essential to ensure a worthwhile future for the generations to come. The company has therefore strategically established sustainability as a principle for its products and processes. Corporate responsibility includes fuel-efficient products, resource-efficient production processes, a future-oriented and fair personnel policy, effective involvement in society and responsible business operations in general. This gives the motto of "Vorsprung durch Technik" a new dimension that extends far beyond the products. The ultimate goal is CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral mobility.