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## **Audi customers are set for Daytona**

- **Four Audi R8 GRAND-AM cars at 24-hour race in Florida**
- **Audi factory drivers reinforce U.S. customer teams**
- **Audi R8 also used as pace car**

**Ingolstadt, January 17, 2013 – Audi Sport customer racing is promoting the Audi R8 and the U.S. racing version of the fascinating mid-engine sports car with a strong line-up at the 24-hour race at Daytona (Florida) on January 26/27.**

With extended support from the Audi customer sport department, the American Alex Job Racing, APR Motorsport and Rum Bum Racing teams are fielding a total of four Audi R8 GRAND-AM cars. The U.S. version of the successful customer racing sports car from AUDI AG has been subjected to further technical development for the 2013 season and will be meeting with strong competition in the field of GT cars at the U.S. endurance classic.

“We’re expecting a highly balanced and competitive field in the GT category this year,” says Romolo Liebchen, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. “We’ve got reliable race cars and a good strategy – but our drivers play the crucial role. That’s why we’re supporting our customer teams at Daytona this year with a high-caliber driver squad. Our aim is clear: Everyone who’s toying with the idea of getting involved in the GRAND-AM Series should put the Audi R8 GRAND-AM on their short list of choices.”

### **Extremely strong driver line-up**

At Daytona, all three Audi customer teams can draw upon drivers who have already achieved major successes in the GT3 version of the Audi R8. Competing for the squad of Alex Job Racing are the three Audi factory drivers Filipe Albuquerque (Portugal), Oliver Jarvis (Great Britain) and Edoardo Mortara (Italy/France). Filipe Albuquerque was the runner-up in the Italian championship in the Audi R8 LMS in 2010. Oliver Jarvis contested the FIA GT1 World Championship last year at the wheel of the Audi R8 LMS ultra. Edoardo Mortara in the R8 most recently won the GT Cup in Macau two consecutive times plus two events of the Audi R8 LMS Cup in

China in 2012. The AJR squad is completed by the American Dion von Moltke, who was victorious in the GTC category at the 2012 Sebring 12 Hours.

A similarly strong squad is driving the Audi R8 GRAND-AM of Rum Bum Racing, the current championship-winning team in the Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge that is held as part of the GRAND-AM Series. The five-time Le Mans winner Frank Biela (Germany) was involved in the development of the R8 racing version from the first day on. Christopher Haase (Germany) and GT1 World Champion Markus Winkelhock (Germany) won the 24-hour race on the legendary Nürburgring Nordschleife at the wheel of an Audi R8 LMS ultra in 2012. The American Matt Plumb last year just barely missed winning the drivers' title in the Continental Tire Sports Car Challenge.

The team of APR Motorsport that was already on the grid in the GRAND-AM Series with the Audi R8 last year is fielding two cars at Daytona. Three other German endurance racing aces, Marc Basseng, René Rast and Frank Stippler, are running in the number "52" R8 GRAND-AM. Frank Stippler in the R8 LMS ultra won the 24-hour races at the Nürburgring and at Spa last year and is one of the development drivers of quattro GmbH for motorsport. Marc Basseng in 2012 was part of the victorious Audi team at the Nürburgring as well, and so was René Rast at Spa. The APR foursome is completed by the American Ian Baas, who celebrated a GT victory at Daytona in 2006. Car number "51" will be shared by the two Americans Matt Bell and Alex Figge and the Canadians David Empringham, John Farano and Dave Lacey.

"We're in an outstanding position with this high-caliber driver line-up," Romolo Liebchen is convinced. "In terms of technology the R8 GRAND-AM has meanwhile become as sophisticated and reliable as the GT3 version."

### **R8 GRAND-AM with optimized technology**

For the 2013 season, the Audi R8 GRAND-AM has been optimized in numerous details. Optional flics at the front, ventilation of the front wheelhouses using louvers above the front wheels plus a new rear wing position have improved the car's aerodynamic efficiency. To achieve the minimum weight prescribed by the regulations, Audi has further extended the ultra lightweight design concept for 2013. Carbon-fiber reinforced plastic (CFRP) doors are now also permitted in GRAND-AM racing. Specifically developed for the United States were spring-damper units with softer suspension rates and modified damper characteristics.

During the preparation of the race cars for the 24-hour race at Daytona, nothing was left to chance. After the "Roar before the Rolex 24," the final joint test at Daytona, all four race cars were prepared and brought up to the latest technical level

together with the teams at Audi Sport customer racing's branch in Indiana. During the race, Teams AJR, APR and RBR will be supported by engineers and mechanics of quattro GmbH as well.

### **Audi R8 serves as pace car, record sales achieved in the United States**

Audi of America is supporting the 51st running of the endurance classic in various ways. Among other things, the production version of the Audi R8 will be used as the pace car. In the United States, Audi achieved new record sales for every single month last year. Audi of America has increased the customer base of the brand with the four rings by around 50 percent over the past five years. Audi Sport customer racing is expecting its U.S. business to grow as well.

Qualifying of the GT cars at Daytona is scheduled for Thursday (January 24) from 16:10 to 16:25 (local time, CET +6 hours). The race will start on Saturday (January 26) at 15:30 local time.

### **The Audi customer teams at Daytona**

Audi R8 GRAND-AM #13 (Audi Sport customer racing/Rum Bum Racing)  
Frank Biela (D)/Christopher Haase (D)/Matt Plumb (USA)/Markus Winkelhock (D)

Audi R8 GRAND-AM #24 (Audi Sport customer racing/Alex Job Racing)  
Filipe Albuquerque (P)/Oliver Jarvis (GB)/Edoardo Mortara (I/F)/Dion von Moltke (USA)

Audi R8 GRAND-AM #51 (APR Motorsport)  
Matt Bell (USA)/David Empringham (CDN)/John Farano (CDN)/Alex Figge (USA)/Dave Lacey (CDN)

Audi R8 GRAND-AM #52 (Audi Sport customer racing/APR Motorsport)  
Ian Baas (USA)/Marc Basseng (D)/René Rast (D)/Frank Stippler (D)

### **Schedule**

#### **Thursday, January 24**

09:00 – 10:00 Free practice 1  
13:15 – 13:45 Free practice 2  
15:40 – 15:55 Qualifying (prototypes)  
16:10 – 16:25 Qualifying (GT vehicles)  
18:00 – 20:00 Free practice 3



**Friday, January 25**

10:30 – 11:30 Free practice 4

**Saturday, January 26**

15:30 Start

**Sunday, January 27**

15:30 Finish

– End –

Note to editors:

A PDF version of the Audi Sport customer racing 2013 MediaInfo booklet is available for downloading at [www.audi-motorsport.info](http://www.audi-motorsport.info) (accreditation required).

The Audi Group delivered around 1,455,100 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2012. From January through the end of September 2012 the Company posted revenue of € 37.7 billion and an operating profit of € 4.2 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 amongst others 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 bike manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna/Italy). Audi currently employs more than 68,000 people worldwide, including around 50,000 in Germany. From 2012 until 2016 the brand with the four rings is planning to invest a total of €13 billion – mainly in new products and the extension 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) from 2016.

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 Audi Environmental Foundation. Within the context of "Vorsprung durch Technik," which extends far beyond its products, the Company is directing its activities toward a major goal – comprehensive CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral mobility.