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Audi driver Ekström triumphs in Munich

- **Spectacular recovery in wet finale at the Olympic Stadium**
- **Ekström and the Audi A5 DTM strong in all conditions**
- **45,000 spectators watch Audi victory at DTM show event**

Ingolstadt/Munich, July 15, 2012 – The winner of the single competition at the 2012 DTM show event in Munich is Mattias Ekström (Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline). In front of 45,000 spectators (throughout the weekend) the Audi factory driver at the wheel of his Red Bull Audi A5 DTM prevailed in a spectacular finale against Jamie Green in the Mercedes-Benz.

With three triumphs at the “Race of Champions” under his belt, Mattias Ekström proved his outstanding class in stadium competitions several times before. Now, he has entered his name in the winners’ list at the Munich Olympic Stadium as well. One day after his 34th birthday, the Swede gave himself the best belated birthday present by clinching his first victory this season.

“It’s been a long time since I last stood on the very top of the podium,” said the Audi racer after his triumph. “Winning here in front of so many fans is particularly nice. I had the impression that the Olympic Stadium was pretty much in BMW’s hands – but today we showed to the whole crowd that Audi’s best.”

As the best-placed Audi driver in the DTM standings, Mattias Ekström had been placed for the eighth-final on Sunday in which he easily defeated BMW racer Joey Hand. In the quarter-final, Ekström took another BMW out of the race, the car driven by the current DTM Champion Martin Tomczyk. That his advantage of 0.090 seconds turned out to be extremely narrow was due to the fact that prior to the pit stop Ekström had accidentally shifted into idle on the track that had meanwhile become wet from rain, which caused him to lose nearly his whole advantage.

A clear decision was made in the semi-final in which the Audi driver on six laps snatched almost two seconds from the leader of the standings, Gary Paffett (Mercedes). And the two-time DTM Champion did the best job of handling the

flooded track in the finale as well. After a slow first pit stop he made up a gap of nearly two seconds in the second of the two final heats within just three laps and ultimately crossed the finish line as the clear winner with a 1.476-second advantage.

“It was a very thrilling finale and a nice event that was good fun,” commented Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “Even spectators who weren’t into motorsport very much before were able to see how exciting and captivating the DTM can be. In the end, it was especially nice that Mattias (Ekström) managed to win for Audi.”

Mike Rockenfeller (Schaeffler Audi A5 DTM/Audi Sport Team Phoenix) was another Audi racer to make it into the quarter-final. In the eighth-final, “Rocky” defeated his team-mate Miguel Molina (Red Bull Audi A5 DTM) who was struggling with clutch problems. In the quarter-final, “Rocky” was beaten by the subsequent finalist Jamie Green by merely 0.303 seconds.

Edoardo Mortara (Playboy Audi A5 DTM/Audi Sport Team Rosberg) experienced an even closer outcome. In the eighth-final, last year’s runner-up had to admit defeat to former Formula One racer David Coulthard by as little as 0.062 seconds. His team-mate Filipe Albuquerque (TV Movie Audi A5 DTM) lost by a similarly narrow margin against Jamie Green. One of the most nail-biting eighth-final heats was delivered by Adrien Tambay (Audi ultra A5 DTM), who, running on slicks as rain was setting in, defeated Bruno Spengler by a razor-thin lead.

With a commanding victory in the preliminary round against BMW racer Dirk Werner, Rahel Frey (E-POSTBRIEF Audi A5 DTM) managed to advance into the eighth-final as well. The gamble of competing against Gary Paffett with rain tires fitted to the front wheels, though, did not work out. In 15th place, the Swiss was the best lady in the field in the end nonetheless.

The two-time DTM Champion Timo Scheider (AUTO TEST Audi A5 DTM) paid the price for no longer having fresh tires at his disposal for the day of the race after moving into the final on Saturday. In the first heat, he was defeated by the Canadian Robert Wickens.

After a brief break, the DTM will be seeing a battle for points again at the Nürburgring on August 19 where Mattias Ekström was victorious last year as well.



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The Audi Group delivered 1,302,659 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2011. In 2011 the Company posted revenue of €44.1 billion and an operating profit of €5.3 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 July 2010, CKD production of the Audi Q5 was added to the existing Audi A4 and A6 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., Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese (Italy), AUDI BRUSSELS S.A./N.V. in Brussels (Belgium) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Subject to a positive decision by the responsible competition authorities, the Italian sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. will also belong to the Audi Group. Audi currently employs around 65,000 people worldwide, including around 48,000 in Germany. Between 2012 and 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" slogan. Audi is currently expanding its site in Győr (Hungary) and will start production in Foshan (China) in late 2013 and in Mexico in 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 CO₂-neutral mobility.