



Communications Motorsport

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Audi driver Scheider on front row at Brands Hatch

- **Leader of the standings quickest of the title favorites in qualifying**
- **Just 81 thousandths short of the pole position**
- **Six Audi A4 DTM cars in the top ten**

Ingolstadt/Brands Hatch – With a strong qualifying performance Audi driver Timo Scheider achieved a good starting base for the DTM race at Brands Hatch. The leader of the standings was the quickest of the favorites for the title and will start from the front row in his Audi A4 DTM on Sunday (live broadcast starting at 1:45 pm – German time – on “Das Erste”).

In the shoot-out for the top four grid positions on Saturday, Scheider merely had to admit defeat to the Scotsman Paul Di Resta, who was just 81 thousandths of a second faster than the Audi driver. Consequently, the same two drivers as last year will start from the front row on Sunday – albeit in reverse order this time.

“Brands Hatch was already a good track for me last year – and with a front-row position, I’m again off to a good start,” said Scheider. “The times are incredibly close. Of course at the moment I’m looking at Gary (Paffett) and Mattias (Ekström) in particular – and in this respect I was the one who did the better job today. If I manage a good start again tomorrow, anything will be possible.”

His teammate Tom Kristensen, who secured third place on the grid, was just six thousandths of a second slower than Scheider. Martin Tomczyk and Mattias Ekström will go to the race from positions five and seven. Between the two Audi drivers is Gary Paffett, who is currently the best-place Mercedes driver in the overall classification.



With local hero Oliver Jarvis on position nine and Markus Winkelhock on position ten, a total of six Audi A4 DTM cars will start to the race from the first five rows.

“This means we’ve got good chances of extending our overall lead,” said Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich, assessing the qualifying results positively despite the fact that Audi – after clinching eight consecutive pole positions – had to settle for second place on the grid for the first time since September 2008.

“Obviously, such a long string of pole positions had to come to an end at some point in time, that’s why I can live with this result very well – particularly when the competition is as close as it is in the DTM and especially on this short circuit. In the end, we were just lacking a couple of hundredths. But we’ve got two cars in the top three. That’s a respectable showing.”

Although Audi’s series of setting the fastest times in qualifying ended at Brands Hatch, another impressive one didn’t: For the 13th consecutive time, an Audi A4 DTM is on the front row in the most popular international touring car racing series.

- Ends -

Photographs and information available at www.audi-motorsport.info

AUDI AG sold a total of 1,003,469 cars in 2008 and thus achieved its 13th consecutive record year. The Company posted new record figures with revenue of €34.2 billion and profit before tax of €3.2 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 and of the Audi A4 in early October 2008. The Company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG’s wholly owned subsidiaries include Automobili Lamborghini Holding S.p.A. in Sant’Agata Bolognese (Italy) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi currently employs around 58,000 people worldwide, including 46,500 in Germany. The brand with the four rings invests around €2 billion each year in order to sustain the company’s technological lead embodied in its “Vorsprung durch Technik” slogan. Audi plans to significantly increase the number of models in its portfolio by 2015 to 42. The AUDI brand celebrates its 100th birthday in 2009. The company was founded by August Horch in Zwickau on July 16, 1909; he named it AUDI after the Latin translation of his surname (“hark!”).