

## Communications Motorsport

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May 31, 2009

## Audi driver Timo Scheider takes DTM lead

- **Mattias Ekström clinches podium result for Audi**
- **Fifth place for title defender Scheider at the EuroSpeedway**
- **Mike Rockenfeller scores points in year-old car**

**Ingolstadt/Klettwitz – With a fifth-place finish at the EuroSpeedway title defender Timo Scheider took the lead in the DTM standings. 75 000 spectators (throughout the weekend) at Lausitz witnessed a turbulent race packed with collisions in which Mattias Ekström, in third place, clinched a podium result for Audi. With Mike Rockenfeller in seventh place, an Audi driver of a year-old car scored points as well.**

In the early stages of the race Mattias Ekström was setting the pace. After starting from pole, the Swede in the Audi A4 DTM of Audi Sport Team Sportsline extended his lead to almost three seconds. However, in the final stages Ekström dropped behind Gary Paffett and Bruno Spengler.

"I already said after the race at Hockenheim that Mercedes will recover – and today they were strong," commented Head of Audi Motorsportchef Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. "Compared to Paffett and Spengler, we were just a little too slow. We're going to analyze the reasons for this. It was a strong performance by Mattias Ekström to have clinched a podium result anyway."

After the start, Ekström's teammate Timo Scheider maintained fourth place for a long time but then lost three seconds during his second pit stop due to a jammed wheel nut. Nevertheless, by finishing fifth, the reigning DTM Champion took the lead in the standings. "I could have clinched a podium result today," said

Scheider after the race. "Unfortunately, I lost that chance in the pit lane, but I'm happy to go the season's highlight at the Norisring as the DTM leader."

After a good start from third place on the grid, Mike Rockenfeller in the year-old A4 of Audi Sport Team Rosberg was able to advance to second and keep last year's winner Paul di Resta at bay up until his first pit stop. However, on the second and third set of tires he was no longer able to keep the pace of the fastest Mercedes drivers and, ultimately, had to settle for seventh place.

For Hockenheim winner Tom Kristensen, it was a black day. After posting the fastest time in the morning's warm-up, he had a collision with Mercedes driver Mathias Lauda on the second lap while making up ground from 17<sup>th</sup> place on the grid. The front end of his Audi A4 DTM was damaged in the incident. In addition, the Dane had to sit a pit stop penalty, followed later by a controversial drive-through penalty. Running one lap behind, Kristensen finished twelfth in the end.

Ekström, Scheider, Rockenfeller and Kristensen were the only Audi factory drivers to see the checkered flag at the EuroSpeedway – all others were victims of the turbulent early stage of the race. Katherine Legge collided with Markus Winkelhock, resulting in suspension damage to both cars. Oliver Jarvis, as well, was forced to retire due to a damaged suspension. Martin Tomczyk sustained damage to the front end of his A4 in a collision and had to park his car early because the water temperature was rising excessively. Alexandre Prémat spun into the gravel trap after a botched pit stop.

The Audi A4 DTM cars fielded by the private Kolles team finished in 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> place.

- Ends -

**Photographs and information available at [www.audi-motorsport.info](http://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!").



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