

Communication Motorsport

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Audi “factory” driver Mattias Ekström wins “Race of Champions” in Beijing

- **Third triumph for the Swede after 2006 and 2007**
- **Victories against Jenson Button and Michael Schumacher**
- **Compensation for disappointing 2009 DTM season**

Ingolstadt/Peking – Audi “factory” driver Mattias Ekström again proved his exceptional talent: In Beijing the Swede won the “Race of Champions” for the third time after 2006 and 2007. In the competition of the world’s best race and rally drivers the two-time DTM Champion defeated the new Formula 1 World Champion in the semi-finale, and Michael Schumacher in the finale.

“This is a very special day for me,” beamed the 31-year-old after his triumph in the Olympic Stadium in Beijing. “I was not particularly fortunate this year in the DTM. To end the season with a victory against Michael Schumacher is fantastic.”

Ekström showed an impressive performance on the 1.074-kilometer track in the famous “Bird’s Nest”: The Audi driver was the clear winner of the qualifying rounds. At the subsequent head-to-head races in identical cars he first beat his team-mate Tom Kristensen and subsequently Formula 1 World Champion Jenson Button. In the finale he did not give Michael Schumacher the slightest chance and with two wins secured the prestigious title which he had won twice before, at the Stade de France in Paris in 2006, and at Wembley Stadium in London in 2007.

“Mattias (Ekström) has proved in the past that he is one of the world’s best, both on the circuit and in rally racing,” says Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “This is a very rare combination in motorsport. Walter Röhrl



was such an exceptional driver and Sébastien Loeb was one of them too. We know Mattias' value to Audi and are happy that he is with us. After the 2009 DTM season that was disappointing for him and in which he had an incredible amount of misfortune, this marks an end on a high note on which everyone at Audi extends their cordial congratulations to him.”

- 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!”).

