

Communications Motorsport

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Audi gives young talent opportunity in DTM

- **Eighth Audi A5 DTM for youngster Adrien Tambay**
- **Team-mate of Rahel Frey in Audi Sport Team Abt**
- **Race against the clock in vehicle preparation**

Ingolstadt, March 14, 2012 – Six weeks before the new DTM season opens at the Hockenheimring on April 29 the decision has been made: Audi will be fielding a total of eight vehicles in the competition with BMW and Mercedes-Benz. By signing the 21-year-old Frenchman Adrien Tambay Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich is yet again giving an opportunity to a promising young driver.

Two-time champion Mattias Ekström, Filipe Albuquerque, Miguel Molina, Edoardo Mortara, Mike Rockenfeller – as many as five examples give proof of AUDI AG's successful promotion of young talent in the DTM. Now following in these footsteps is Adrien Tambay, the son of the former Formula 1 racer Patrick Tambay. As Rahel Frey's team-mate in Audi Sport Team Abt, he will be driving one of the total of eight new Audi A5 DTM cars.

"We were poised for fielding eight vehicles in the DTM as early as last year and are assuming that no later than in 2013 all manufacturers will be competing with at least eight cars," says Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. "As we had to develop an extremely challenging hybrid car – the Audi R18 e-tron quattro – for the Le Mans 24 Hours and concurrently a completely new DTM vehicle we were initially planning for seven cars in 2012. I'm happy that the opportunity to enter eight cars has now materialized. I'm convinced that in view of the DTM's high level it'll be advantageous to compete with the maximum number of possible cars. The competition will be very close – an additional vehicle also means an additional chance. Plus, an even number makes more sense than an uneven number in terms of logistics and team effort."

By signing Adrien Tambay Audi is purposefully following its strategy of discovering talents and retaining them for the brand early on. "We took several young drivers on board in recent years, some of whom joined us from Volkswagen's talent incubator

in Formula 3,” says Dr. Ullrich. “I feel that today Audi has a very good base in terms of its driver line-up, which also means that the brand is oriented toward the future. This also applies to Adrien (Tambay), who convinced us in tests and is a good fit for the Audi family.”

The 21-year-old Frenchman, who was active in formula racing since 2007 and took fourth place in the international “Auto-GP” series, prevailed in a multi-step evaluation of young drivers. The ultimate decision in favor of Tambay was made after a final test on Monday. The DTM rookie will start testing in the Audi A5 DTM for his new race team as early as during the official DTM track tests in Valencia (Spain) next week.

Whether Tambay will already be on the grid at the Hockenheimring season opener is not certain at the moment. “We’re currently working at full stretch on duplicating a sufficient number of cars of the A5 DTM model that was homologated on March 1 and to ensure appropriate spare parts supply,” explains Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “This is a major logistical feat and puts maximum demands on the entire squad. Our aim is to field the eighth car as early as possible.”

– End –

Profile: Audi factory driver Adrien Tambay (F)

Date of birth: February 25, 1991

Place of birth: Paris (F)

Domicile: Aix-en-Provence (F)

Marital status: single

Motorsport since: 2001 (Audi driver since 2012)

Sporting career

2001-2006	Kart
2007	1st place, Formula BMW Germany, rookie classification
2008	3rd place, Formula BMW Europe
2009	Formula 3 Euro Series
2010	6th place, Auto GP Series, 20th place, GP3 Series
2011	4th place, Auto GP Series, 27th place, Formula Renault 3.5
2012	2nd place Trophée Andros Electrique

www.adrientambay.fr

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 May 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. Audi currently employs around 64,000 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.

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. Under the heading of "Audi balanced mobility," the Company is directing its activities toward a major goal – comprehensive CO2-neutral mobility.