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Audi is strongest brand on the five front rows

- **Five Audi A5 DTM cars in the top ten in qualifying at the Lausitzring**
- **Mike Rockenfeller is best Audi driver on grid position four**
- **1,100 Audi mechanics are keeping their fingers crossed on Sunday**

Ingolstadt/Klettwitz, May 5, 2012 – Title defender Audi showed a solid team performance in qualifying for the second DTM race of the 2012 DTM season at the Lausitzring. With five A5 DTM cars in the top ten, Audi is the strongest brand on the five front rows of the grid.

Qualifying at Lausitz confirmed the picture that had already become apparent at the Hockenheim season opener a week ago. All three manufacturers are competing on an equal footing in the 2012 DTM; the time gaps are minimal and only minute details are decisive. And as at Hockenheim, vehicles from all three brands are again on the two front rows.

The quickest Audi driver in qualifying was Mike Rockenfeller in the Schaeffler Audi A5 DTM of Audi Sport Team Phoenix who had to skip the race at the Lausitzring last year due to his serious accident at the Le Mans 24 Hours. “Rocky” was the quickest in Q1, sixth in Q2 and second in Q3, and fourth in Q4.

“Grid position four is basically not a poor result,” commented Rockenfeller. “But I’d certainly thought that more was possible in Q4. The first sector wasn’t very good, that’s when I was struggling a bit with the tires. I think I squeezed the maximum out of it nonetheless because in the free practice sessions we fully concentrated on the set-up for the race. We’ve got a good starting base for tomorrow.”

The second-best Audi racer in qualifying was again Edor do Mortara who in his Playboy Audi A5 DTM from Audi Sport Team Rosberg barely missed Q4 by 62 thousandths of a second. The Italian is starting into the race on Sunday from position five.



Mattias Ekström as the best driver of Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline secured position eight on the grid in his Red Bull Audi A5 DTM. The Swede, who is currently the best Audi driver in the overall standings, made two tiny mistakes in Q3 that ultimately cost the crucial time.

The fifth row is shared by Miguel Molina (Red Bull Audi A5 DTM) and youngster Adrien Tambay (Audi ultra A5 DTM), who at the second DTM qualifying event in his young career reached Q3 for the first time.

Filipe Albuquerque (TV Movie Audi A5 DTM) missed Q3 by just 32 thousandths of a second. The Portuguese is on position eleven. Timo Scheider (AUTO TEST Audi A5 DTM) touched a curb in Q3 and damaged his A5 DTM in the process. The two-time DTM Champion will start from position twelve. Rahel Frey (E-POSTBRIEF Audi A5 DTM) will enter the race from position 22.

“This was a similarly thrilling qualifying session as the one a week ago,” analyzed Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “The three manufacturers are so close together that you can’t afford to make the slightest mistake. We could see that again today. With five vehicles, Audi has the strongest representation on the five front rows of the grid. At Hockenheim, we had pole but weren’t strong enough in the race. I’m hoping for us to be able to turn that around here. In any event, it’ll be very thrilling tomorrow.”

For the race on Sunday (live on “Das Erste” starting at 13:45 – local time) a similarly impressive crowd as at Hockenheim a week ago is expected – including around 1,100 mechanics from Audi operations in the Region East who will be avidly keeping their fingers crossed for the Audi racers and can be recognized by their red Audi caps.

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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 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. 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 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 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.