

Communications Motorsport

Jürgen Pippig

Telephone: +49 (0)841 89 34200

E-mail: motorsport-media@audi.de

www.audi-motorsport.info

Audi on grid positions one and two at Valencia

- Like last year, Mattias Ekström is again quickest in qualifying
- Filipe Albuquerque will start from position two
- Leader of the standings Martin Tomczyk on fifth row

Ingolstadt/Valencia, October 1, 2011 – A déjà-vu effect: Like last year, Mattias Ekström will again start into the race at the DTM round at Valencia from the pole position. Besides the Swede, Filipe Albuquerque also has reason to rejoice: The DTM rookie managed his best performance of the season so far by setting the second-best time.

In challenging track conditions Mattias Ekström showed a flawless performance in qualifying. In all classified qualifying sections he was always one of the best two drivers. In the end, the two-time DTM Champion, as he previously did at the Nürburgring, posted the fastest time. His advantage was more than four tenths of a second – a world of difference in qualifying. This means that the Scandinavian from Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline will start from the top spot on the grid for the 18th time in his DTM career. “The track was changing very quickly here,” analyzed the Swede, who has won two of the past three DTM rounds this year. “The constantly changing track temperatures were a challenge. The tires were very good but the tarmac was unpredictable. Still, we were competitive the whole time. Our hard work paid off.”

Filipe Albuquerque showed a convincing performance as well. After only having been quick in the free practice sessions the weekend before, the Portuguese was able to show his potential in qualifying, too, this time: the fastest time in the first section, fourth place in the third section and, ultimately, position two in the crucial last single timed lap. The DTM rookie from Audi Sport Team Rosberg thus completes the Audi duo on the front row of the grid. Rows three and four are also firmly in the hands of Audi drivers. The four Abt team members Mike Rockenfeller, Miguel Molina, Timo Scheider and Oliver Jarvis will be starting from positions five to eight. This means that six Audi A4 DTM cars are among the top eight on the grid.



Leader of the standings Martin Tomczyk on the other hand was struggling with the track conditions. He will start into the race from position ten. He said that the set-up of his Audi A4 DTM was good but that smaller mistakes thwarted a better lap time. That a moderate qualifying result does not necessarily have to prevent a good race result though was most recently demonstrated by the Bavarian at Oschersleben. From position 14 on the grid the racer from Audi Sport Team Phoenix improved to second place. For Tomczyk, who has a nine-point advantage in the DTM standings the situation of title rival Bruno Spengler provides a bit of consolation as well. The Canadian (Mercedes-Benz) did not achieve better than grid position twelve.

Filipe Albuquerque's team-mate Edoardo Mortara has to settle for position 14 on the grid. The Italian spun into the gravel trap and thus forced the second qualifying section to be stopped. Rahel Frey from Audi Sport Team Phoenix in the battle of the ladies beat her opponent Susie Stoddart by 27 thousandths of a second and will start from position 17. The race will begin on Sunday at 2 p.m. (live broadcast on "Das Erste" from 1:45 p.m., local time).

"A great result for Audi with two cars on the front row," said a pleased Dr. Martin Mühlmeier, Technical Director of Audi Sport. "Mattias (Ekström) and Filipe (Albuquerque) did a perfect job up to and including the fourth qualifying section. The situation was a little strange for Martin Tomczyk, who made a mistake in the second sector. Then he reduced his speed a bit. On his next lap he was only able to take tenth place. We've got to see what the race will bring tomorrow. Martin has to push to make up ground. He has already shown how good he is at doing that this season – most recently at Oschersleben."

The Audi Group delivered around 1,092,400 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2010. The Company posted revenue of €35.4 billion and an operating profit of €3.3 billion in 2010. In the first half of 2011, the Audi Group sold 652,970 vehicles bearing the four rings worldwide and achieved record figures in terms of revenue (€21.5 billion) and operating profit (€2.5 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, of the Audi A4 in early October 2008 and of the Audi Q5 in July 2010. Production of the new Audi A1 has been running at the Brussels plant since May 2010. 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 Holding S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese (Italy) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi currently employs around 60,000 people worldwide, including around 46,600 in Germany. Between 2011 and 2015 the brand with the four rings is planning to invest more than €11 billion, mainly in new products, in order to sustain the Company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" slogan. By 2015, Audi plans to increase the number of models in its portfolio to 42.

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