



Communications Motorsport

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Audi on second row at “home round”

- **Mattias Ekström on grid position four at the Norisring**
- **Fastest lap of the weekend for the Audi A4 DTM**
- **Six Audi racers on the top eleven grid positions**

Ingolstadt/Nuremberg, July 2, 2011 – At Audi’s “home round” in the DTM at the Norisring, Mattias Ekström set the quickest qualifying lap (48.058 seconds). Nevertheless, the Swede from Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline had to settle for fourth place in the final shoot-out.

By setting best times in the second and third section of qualifying Ekström suggested the potential of the Audi A4 DTM on the city street circuit along the Dutzendteich lake. In Q3 the two-time DTM champion managed to move to the front of the field by achieving the fastest lap of the weekend thus far despite drizzling rain setting in. But in Q4 Ekström made a little mistake in the first hairpin. “The left front wheel stopped,” explained the Swede. “This caused me to lose the crucial time. It’s very difficult to get everything exactly right at the Norisring. In Q2 and Q3 it worked out well but in the crucial moment unfortunately not. But from position four, everything is still possible.”

Ekström was the only Audi driver in Q4. Timo Scheider (grid position seven) and Edoardo Mortara from Audi Sport Team Rosberg (grid position eight) were eliminated in Q3. With Miguel Molina, Martin Tomczyk (Audi Sport Team Phoenix) and Oliver Jarvis on positions nine, ten and eleven, six of the nine Audi A4 DTM cars are on the best eleven grid positions. Filipe Albuquerque, Mike Rockenfeller and Rahel Frey on the other hand were eliminated as early as in Q1 and will start into the race from the last three grid positions despite minimal time gaps.

“As expected, qualifying here was not about hundredths but thousandths of a second,” said Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “In Q2 the quickest eight were within just 0.114 seconds of each other – that says everything about how extremely close the performance in the field is. Mattias (Ekström) made it into Q4 and had the chance to clinch the pole position for Audi. This shows that the A4 DTM



is competitive at the Norisring – even though our rivals have traditionally been particularly strong here. We’ll try and put them under pressure tomorrow and fight for victory despite our starting base not being all that good.”

The fifth race of the 2011 DTM season will start on Sunday at 1.00 p.m. (CEST) and cover a distance of 82 laps. ARD will start to broadcast live on the “Das Erste” at 12:45 (local time). The planned demo laps of the Audi R18 TDI that was victorious at Le Mans before the race had to be cancelled at short notice for logistical reasons. A show car of the LMP1 sport prototype is displayed in front of the Audi VIP Lounge at the Norisring.

The Audi Group sold around 1,092,400 cars of the Audi brand in 2010. The Company posted revenue of €35.4 billion and an operating profit of €3.3 billion in 2010. 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 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 around €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.