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## **Audi on second row of the grid at DTM finale**

- **Close qualifying at the Hockenheimring**
- **Mattias Ekström on grid position four is best Audi driver**
- **Rahel Frey in Q2 for the second time in succession**

**Ingolstadt/Hockenheim, October 20, 2012 – Mattias Ekström (Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline) will start into the DTM finale at the Hockenheimring (from 13:45 live on “Das Erste”) from grid position four as the best Audi driver.**

The Swede continued the performance he had shown at the season opener where he had clinched the pole position in his Red Bull Audi A5 DTM at the same venue. In Saturday morning's free practice, Ekström drove the fastest time and was the best Audi driver in each of the qualifying sections. The two-time DTM Champion, however, entered the crucial shoot-out of the top four with a small disadvantage because he had driven a second timed lap in Q3. “That's why there was no more grip in the tires in Q4,” said Ekström. “I'm pleased nonetheless because I've been trying to find a perfect set-up for qualifying at a few of the last races. Today, I managed to do that; the car was right on the dot.”

On the whole, the Audi drivers were not able to continue the strong results of the free practice session in the morning. Seven of the eight Audi A5 DTM cars made it into Q2 but only three ultimately managed the leap into the top ten. “After taking the top three places in free practice this morning and all drivers were very happy with their cars, the qualifying results are no doubt a bit disappointing for us,” commented Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “As is often the case in the DTM, it was incredibly close today and in the warmer conditions our drivers were complaining about lack of grip. But we've still got every chance of achieving our aim, which is to win the manufacturers' championship. For this goal, we've primarily been working on improving our race performance lately. I'm hoping that this'll pay off tomorrow.”

As the second-best Audi driver, Timo Scheider in the AUTO TEST Audi A5 DTM will be starting into the race from grid position eight. Edoardo Mortara in the Playboy Audi A5 DTM of Audi Sport Team Rosberg secured grid position nine.

Filipe Albuquerque (TV Movie Audi A5 DTM), in eleventh place, missed Q3 by merely 15 thousandths of a second. Mike Rockenfeller (Schaeffler Audi A5 DTM) will be starting alongside him on the sixth row as the best driver of Audi Sport Team Phoenix.

Adrien Tambay (Audi ultra A5 DTM) and Rahel Frey (E-POSTBRIEF Audi A5 DTM) will start into the race from grid positions 15 and 16. The female driver of Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline managed the leap into Q2 for the second consecutive time.

Miguel Molina (Red Bull Audi A5 DTM) lost valuable practice time in the morning due to an excursion into the gravel trap and was the only Audi driver to be eliminated in Q1. The Spaniard will start from position 20.

– End –

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 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 amongst others AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft. (Győr/Hungary), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese/Italy), AUDI BRUSSELS S.A./N.V. (Brussels/Belgium), quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm and the sports bike manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna/Italy). Audi currently employs around 65,000 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" claim. Audi is currently expanding its site in Győr (Hungary) and will start production in Foshan (China) in late 2013 and in San José Chiapa (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 CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral mobility.