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Motorsport

Audi R10 proves to be a sensation at Sebring

- **Great media interest at Sebring's "Winter Test"**
- **First public test for the new Diesel sports car**
- **Three-day test in high temperatures**

After the spectacular presentation in Paris in December and a brief appearance at the Los Angeles Auto Show at the beginning of January, the Audi R10 is again proving to be a sensation: Since Monday, the new diesel sports car turns its first laps in front of public eyes at the "Winter Test" of the American Le Mans Series (ALMS) at Sebring (Florida). The media interest is correspondingly high: Never before have there been so many journalists, camera teams and photographers attending an American Le Mans Series test. The Audi R10 has even attracted spectators to attend Sebring, the venue for the new Audi sports car's race debut on 18 March.

AUDI AG
Kommunikation
85045 Ingolstadt
www.audi.com

The development team of Audi Sport runs two Audi R10 prototypes at Sebring. German Frank Biela and Italian Dindo Capello are driving the two cars. While Biela had completed the roll-out of the R10 in November 2005, Capello was at the steering wheel of the new diesel sports car for the first time on Monday.

On Monday, the two Audi drivers completed a total of 86 laps around the 5.955-kilometre circuit that is especially demanding for machinery due to its bumpy surface and is regarded as an ideal test track for a new race car. Furthermore, the newly developed V12 TDI engine faces its first test in high temperatures: While the previous tests in Europe were run in cool weather conditions, temperatures in Florida are reaching about 30 degrees in the shade.

Communication Motorsport

Telefon +49 (0)841 89 34200, Telefax +49 (0)841 89 38617

E-Mail motorsport-media@audi.de

Photographs of the new Audi R10 test at Sebring can be found in the Internet at: www.audi-motorsport.info (accreditation required)