

**Communications Motorsport**

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## **Audi R10 TDI races for first time in Germany**

- **1000-kilometre race at the Nürburgring**
- **Germany debut for the diesel sportscar**
- **Test bench for innovative diesel-particulate filters**

**Ingolstadt – The Audi R10 TDI has won the famous 24 Hours of Le Mans three times in succession. For the first time the ground breaking diesel sportscar competes in the 1000-kilometre race at the Nürburgring on 17 August in the country where it was designed: Germany.**

AUDI AG demonstrated entrepreneurial prowess yet again with the R10 TDI, particularly as many experts considered Ferdinand Piëch's vision to win Le Mans with a diesel engine for utopian. "When we informed our suppliers about the diesel project they asked us whether we really wanted to take the step," remembers Head of Audi Motorsport Dr Wolfgang Ullrich. "It was a big risk. We knew this, but if Audi couldn't have managed this pioneering achievement who could have?"

The inventor of the TDI reached its goal. Three victories at the 24 Hours of Le Mans and 14 overall race victories in the American Le Mans Series in the USA are an impressive record and proof of the leading role that Audi plays in the development of the TDI Technology, which is accelerated by the R10 TDI project.

This is also valid for technical components like the innovative diesel particulate filters (DPF) with which the Le Mans sportscar is equipped. The filters supplied by Dow Automotive have been reduced in both size and weight by



approximately 40% since their debut in March 2006. The efficiency of the filter was increased simultaneously.

The diesel particulate filters used in the R10 TDI excel as a result of their light weight and compact design. They drastically reduce particle emissions and generate only limited back-pressure – a particularly important factor for diesel engines which directly affects the engine power and fuel consumption.

Audi comes to the 1000-kilometre race at the Nürburgring as leader in the Manufacturers' Championship in the European based Le Mans Series. In the Drivers' Championship the Audi drivers Alexandre Prémat and Mike Rockenfeller are equal on points with leaders Marc Gené and Nicolas Minassian (both Peugeot). Le Mans winners Dindo Capello and Allan McNish follow in third place.

The maximum six-hour long 1000-kilometre race starts on Sunday (17 August) at 12:05 p.m. Eurosport 2 broadcasts live from the Eifel region from 12:00 midday to 2.00 p.m. and between 5:00 and 6.00 p.m.

## **Facts & figures**

### **The Audi driver line-up at the Nürburgring**

#1 Dindo Capello/Allan McNish

#2 Alexandre Prémat/Mike Rockenfeller

**Mike Rockenfeller about the Nürburgring:** "The Nürburgring isn't perhaps the fastest track but it is very demanding. The Mercedes-Arena is quite tight and will certainly not be easy to drive with the big sportscar. The fast uphill section after the Dunlop hairpin should be a lot of fun in the R10 TDI."

## **Interesting facts**

Alexandre Prémat and Mike Rockenfeller finished second at each of the first three rounds of the 2008 Le Mans Series ... The 1000-kilometre race at the Nürburgring is the first race for Allan McNish since his Le Mans victory in June ... In the year 2004 the Scotsman won the 1000-kilometre race at the Nürburgring together with Pierre Kaffer at the wheel of an Audi R8 ... Dindo Capello started from pole position with the Audi R8 in the 1000-kilometre race at the Nürburgring in 2000 ... Audi Sport Team Joest last contested the 1000-kilometre race at the Nürburgring in the year 2000 ... The event is a "home



race” for Mike Rockenfeller: The 25 year old was born in Neuwied only 50 kilometres from the Nürburgring.

### **The schedule at the Nürburgring**

#### **Friday, 15 August**

12:15 – 13:15	Free Practice 1
17:00 – 18:00	Free Practice 2

#### **Saturday, 16 August**

09:05 – 10:05	Free Practice 3
13:45 – 14:05	Qualifying (GT cars)
14:10 – 14:30	Qualifying (prototypes)

#### **Sunday, 17 August**

08:40 – 09:00	Warm-up
12:05 – 18:05	Race (195 laps)

- Ends -

**Photographs and information available at [www.audi-motorsport.info](http://www.audi-motorsport.info)**

AUDI AG sold a total of 964,151 cars in 2007 and thus achieved its twelfth consecutive record year. With revenue of € 33,617 million and profit before tax of € 2,915 million, the company attained its best figures ever. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). At the end of 2007, production of the Audi A6 started in Aurangabad, India. The company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG's wholly owned subsidiaries include Automobili Lamborghini Holding S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy, and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi employs about 57,000 people worldwide, including 45,000 in Germany. The brand with the four rings invests more than € 2 billion each year in order to sustain the company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" slogan. Audi plans to significantly increase the number of models in its portfolio by 2015 to 40.