

Communications Motorsport

Jürgen Pippig

Tel: +49 841 89-34200

E-mail: juergen.pippig@audi.de

www.audi-motorsport.info

Virginia Brusch

Tel: +49 841 89-41753

E-mail: virginia.brusch@audi.de

Audi Sport intensifies commitment in the USA

- **Audi Sport customer racing aims to conquer US market**
- **Updates for Audi R8 GRAND-AM and Audi R8 LMS ultra**
- **Romolo Liebchen, Head of Audi Sport customer racing: Expecting 100th customer car to be delivered in 2013**

Ingolstadt, December 19, 2012 – Particularly in endurance racing, but also in sprint races such as the GT Cup in Macau, the GT3 version of the Audi R8 was the sports car to be beaten in the 2012 season. Now, the R8 LMS ultra is receiving another update – plus Audi Sport customer racing aims to conquer the US market in 2013 as well.

In the United States, the brand with the four rings is recording stronger growth than the US market as a whole, especially in the prestigious large-premium-car segment. Through racing activities in the field of customer sport, Audi intends to support this trend over the long run.

An extended commitment by Audi Sport customer racing in the GRAND-AM Series will kick off this project in the 2013 season. Audi customer teams will be running there with support from Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm and by Audi of America. And the first event is also the most difficult one of the year: the 24-hour race at Daytona (Florida) on January 26/27, 2013.

Strong line-up at Daytona 24 Hours

The Audi factory drivers Filipe Albuquerque, Oliver Jarvis and Edoardo Mortara will be competing at the American endurance classic in an Audi R8 GRAND-AM of Team Alex Job Racing. The cockpits of two other R8 cars will be occupied by high-caliber racers as well. Marc Basseng, René Rast and Frank Stippler will be driving for APR Motorsport, Frank Biela, Christopher Haase and GT1 World Champion Markus Winkelhock for Rum Bum Racing. In addition, each squad will be joined by an American driver.

For use in the GRAND-AM Series, quattro GmbH subjected numerous details of the Audi R8 GRAND-AM to further development. "We're aiming for the R8 GRAND-AM to be equally successful as the GT3 version," says Romolo Liebchen, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. "At Daytona, we want to demonstrate this for the first time and will be extensively supporting our customer teams in the United States at all other races as well."

Evolution version of the Audi R8 LMS ultra

But Audi is not neglecting the customer sport market in Europe and the rest of the world either. An evolution version of the Audi R8 LMS ultra GT3 sports car that mainly differs from the current model in the area of the rear section will start to be delivered to customers by quattro GmbH in February 2013.

Customer teams supported by Audi Sport customer racing will be competing in the 24-hour races at the Nürburgring (Germany) and at Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium) in 2013. The increasingly diverse customer sport program of AUDI AG will be complemented by the Audi R8 LMS Cup in China that was successfully launched in 2012.

"We're offering our customers a very attractive line-up with the updated versions of the R8 GRAND-AM and the R8 LMS ultra plus the Cup in China," says Romolo Liebchen, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. "We're expecting to deliver the 100th customer car during the course of 2013."

Triumphs at three 24-hour races – plus in Macau

In 2012, Audi Sport customer racing celebrated major successes primarily in endurance racing. At the 12-hour race at Bathurst, Australia, the R8 triumphed as well as at the 24-hour races at the Nürburgring and on the Belgian tracks at Spa-Francorchamps and Zolder. In the Blancpain Endurance Series, which is currently the most important endurance racing series for GT3 sports car, the Audi R8 LMS ultra was the benchmark as well. Edoardo Mortara contributed a special success at a sprint race when the DTM star won the GT Cup for the second consecutive time on the challenging city street circuit in Macau (China) in November.

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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 November 2012, CKD production of the Audi Q7 was added to the existing Audi A4, A6 and Q5 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 more than 68,000 people worldwide, including around 50,000 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) from 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 CO₂-neutral mobility.