

## Communications Motorsport

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## Audi Team ready for the Le Mans 24 Hours

- **Thousands of fans at Scrutineering**
- **Alexandre Prémat with special helmet design**
- **Frog characters as lucky charms for Emanuele Pirro**

**Ingolstadt/Le Mans – In Le Mans city centre on Tuesday, thousands of spectators followed Technical Scrutineering of the three Audi R10 TDI prototypes with which Audi Sport Team Joest will compete in next weekend's Le Mans 24 Hours. This means the Audi squad is ready for one of the greatest challenges in motorsport.**

The three Audi diesel sports cars were engulfed by the fans and the nine Audi drivers were more than busy in writing autographs in bright sunshine. Especially sort after, as usual, was the signature of Le Mans record winner Tom Kristensen who will pilot the #2 Audi R10 TDI together with Dindo Capello and Allan McNish.

Local hero Alexandre Prémat revealed a new helmet design at the Technical Scrutineering: The Frenchman's helmet displays the layout of the Le Mans track including the names of the corners. Prémat starts at Le Mans together with Lucas Luhr and Mike Rockenfeller in the #3 Audi R10 TDI.

Last year's winners Frank Biela, Emanuele Pirro and Marco Werner will race with starting number 1 as the defending champions. Emanuele Pirro was presented with numerous frogs from his loyal fans as a gift which is supposed to bring him luck. The Italian collects frog characters.



“The fact that the Technical Scrutineering is taking place at Le Mans as early as Tuesday is one of the peculiarities of the race,” says Frank Biela who has won the 24 Hours of Le Mans together with Emanuele Pirro and Marco Werner two consecutive times at the wheel of the Audi R10 TDI. “Le Mans is the most important race of the year. In no other race are you spending such a long period in the paddock and have so much time to think about everything. The pressure builds up slowly and gets bigger every day. At the start on Saturday it is bigger than in any other race.”

First Qualifying at Le Mans takes place on Wednesday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. and 10 to 12 p.m. The race starts on Saturday at 3 p.m.

Note for editors:

On Wednesday (2 to 3 p.m.) and Thursday (3:30 to 4:30 p.m.) all nine Audi “factory” drivers and key personnel from Audi Sport and the team will be available for interviews at the Audi Team and Media Hospitality in the paddock of Le Mans. The Audi press conference will begin on Friday at 2 p.m. in the Audi Racing Arena at the “Parc du Raccordement” and will be broadcast live on the Internet at [www.audi.de/tv](http://www.audi.de/tv) (German) and [www.audi.com/tv](http://www.audi.com/tv) (English).

**Photographs and information can be obtained 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 54,000 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, from the 26 currently on offer to 40.