

Communications Motorsport

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Audi with new A4 DTM running in front again

- **DTM leader Timo Scheider sets day's best time**
- **Identical times set in places one and two**
- **Five Audi A4 DTM cars among the top ten**

Ingolstadt/Klettwitz – On Friday, the test day of the fourth DTM round, the new Audi A4 DTM remained unbeaten yet again. With 1m 19.688s, Timo Scheider set the day's best time at the EuroSpeedway Lausitz. Exactly the same time was achieved by Mercedes driver Bernd Schneider in second place.

Once more, Audi was the measure of all things: despite its weight handicap of ten kilograms versus Mercedes – due to the two overall victories clinched at the beginning of the season – Audi set Friday's best time with the 2008-spec A4 DTM.

In the morning, Martin Tomczyk had driven a lap around the 3.478-kilometre circuit in the Lausitz region with a best time of 1m 20.179s. His Audi team-mate Tom Kristensen followed with a gap of merely 38 thousandths of a second in second place. In the afternoon, the lap times clearly improved once more: Timo Scheider, as the best driver of the day, was as much as half a second faster than the best driver in the morning.

"Being the quickest again is great, but not really important on Friday," said a pleased Timo Scheider. "What counted was how our car performed over the whole distance. We drew our conclusions from that. I think we weren't bad at all. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to keep up a consistent rhythm because I had to



reduce my speed a bit due to the other cars on the track. Now, we're going to think about qualifying."

With the 2007-spec cars, Audi dominated as well: Markus Winkelhock in the Audi A4 DTM in ninth place was 0.270 seconds quicker than his immediate rival Gary Paffett in the Mercedes. A remarkable time was set by Christijan Albers as well: the Dutchman in the 2006-spec Audi A4 DTM was clocked at 1m 20.409s, setting the eleventh-best time in the field of 19 contenders.

"It's definitely unusual to see two cars at the very front setting an absolutely identical time," said Head of Audi Motorsport Dr Wolfgang Ullrich. "We prepared for the race with our cars and covered long distances – as did our competitors. The top ten are within six tenths. I'm sure the fans will see a very close qualifying tomorrow."

The free practice on Saturday morning will be broadcast live on the Internet at www.dtm.tv; the qualifying on "Das Erste" (ARD) starting at 1:30 p.m. (local time).

Photographs and information available at 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.