

Communications Motorsport

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Audi with two cars in front at the Norisring

- **Two Audi A4 DTM cars on front row of the grid**
- **Leader of the standings Timo Scheider on pole**
- **Mattias Ekström on front row too**

Ingolstadt/Nuremberg – On Sunday, Audi will start to the season highlight at the Norisring with two cars in front: In a dramatic qualifying, title defender and leader of the standings Timo Scheider took the pole position in front of his teammate Mattias Ekström. This means that at Audi's "home race" at the Norisring two Audi A4 DTM cars will be starting from the front row for the first time ever.

Ekström and Scheider, the DTM Champions in 2004, 2007 and 2008, did the best job of handling the track conditions on the 2.3-kilometer city street circuit that kept changing after a thunder shower. In the crucial "shoot-out" of the quickest four, Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline opted for used slicks and hit the bull's eye. On the track that was not completely dry yet, Scheider and Ekström, managed keeping the two Mercedes drivers Bruno Spengler and Gary Paffett at bay.

"We thought slicks that had been used for several laps might be slightly better in these conditions than new tires and that decision turned out to be the right one," said a pleased Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. "After that, our guys simply drove two perfect laps. That's a good starting base to finally clinch an Audi victory again at the Norisring tomorrow."

For Audi, this is the first pole position at the Norisring since 2005 (Tom Kristensen) and the fifth in a row in the DTM. Timo Scheider will start to a DTM

race from the top grid position for the first time since the race at Brands Hatch in August 2008.

“Today, it was easy to make the wrong decisions but we made the right ones,” said Scheider. “It’s fantastic taking the pole position for Audi here at the Norisring of all venues. I want to thank my race engineer Armin Plietsch for giving me exactly the right setup for these changing conditions.”

Katherine Legge, as well, showed an impressive performance: With grid position five, the Briton, who is familiar with city street races from her days in the Champ Car Series in the United States, managed the best qualifying result achieved by a woman in the history of the new DTM. In addition, she posted the fastest time in a year-old car.

For Tom Kristensen (9th), Mike Rockenfeller (12th), Martin Tomczyk (13th) and Alexandre Prémat (14th) on the other hand the qualifying was over as early as after the second of the four sessions. Oliver Jarvis (17th) was out after the first section.

Markus Winkelhock whose A4 was heavily damaged in a bizarre incident in free practice on Saturday morning was not able to participate in qualifying at all. At full speed, Winkelhock hit a manhole cover that had come loose on the start-finish straight. After the incident, practice had to be stopped for two hours before the track was opened again. Audi Sport Team Rosberg is doing everything within their means to repair the car in time for warm-up on Sunday morning.

The third race of the DTM season will start at 2:03 pm on Sunday. ARD will broadcast live from Nuremberg on “Das Erste” starting at 1:45 pm (local time). Audi has won three DTM races at the Norisring so far: In 1990, 1991 and 2002.

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Photographs and information available at www.audi-motorsport.info



AUDI AG sold a total of 1,003,469 cars in 2008 and thus achieved its 13th consecutive record year. The Company posted new record figures with revenue of €34.2 billion and profit before tax of €3.2 billion. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). Aurangabad in India saw the start of CKD production of the Audi A6 at the end of 2007 and of the Audi A4 in early October 2008. 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 currently employs around 58,000 people worldwide, including 46,500 in Germany. The brand with the four rings invests around €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 42. The AUDI brand celebrates its 100th birthday in 2009. The company was founded by August Horch in Zwickau on July 16, 1909; he named it AUDI after the Latin translation of his surname ("hark!").