

Communications Motorsport

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Comments after the Nürburgring 24 Hours

Ingolstadt/Nürburgring, May 20, 2012 – Audi takes its first overall victory in the Nürburgring 24 Hours. The comments of the key personnel and the Audi drivers after the race.

Dieter Gass (Head of Racing Commitments Audi Sport): “That was an absolutely fantastic race and a great result for Audi. We’ve waited a long time for this victory – today is the day. It was an exciting race from start to finish. On one occasion our leading car became the innocent victim of an accident but we fought back again to the front to take a one-two finish. Really an exciting result for Audi.”

Werner Frowein (quattro GmbH): “What shall I say? I’m just incredibly happy. My thanks go to our Board Member Michael Dick who made this fantastic project possible. And obviously also a big thank you to the teams and drivers who have all done a fantastic job. We’ve worked hard for years for this victory. It’s just a dream that now even overall victory follows the earlier class wins.”

Romolo Liebchen (Head of Audi Sport customer racing): “This is a historical event. Audi has never won the Nürburgring 24 Hours before. We’ve finally done it. This is the biggest victory for customer racing. We are very happy.”

Dirk Theimann (Team Manager Audi Sport Team Phoenix): “A great day for Audi and for Phoenix Racing. We have won this race with three different brands, but the win today is the most emotional for us. I dedicate this victory to Werner Frowein because he has always backed this program.”

Peter Mamerow (Team Boss Mamerow Racing): “It was overwhelming when I think that we only received the car eight or nine weeks ago and had a pretty short time to prepare. It has always been my dream to finish on the podium at the 24-hour race. We’ve made a few attempts, led twice and retired. At some stage or other you don’t believe it can happen anymore. The cooperation with Audi is excellent and there is a great feeling of belonging together – this is all just fantastic.”



Vincent Vosse (Team Director Speedhunters Team WRT): “The race at the Nürburgring is extremely difficult and we must respect it. We choose to take on the challenge, learnt a lot and performed well. The car was fast and our drivers were strong. Audi has a good car for endurance competitions. None of the cars had a real problem. This is a proper race car for 24-hour events although the GT3 cars were primarily developed for short races. This is extraordinary.”

Nicki Raeder (Team Director Raeder Motorsport): “It was a fantastic weekend. We had the honor of doing the event for Audi. Things ran perfectly before the accident. We followed a rather more conservative strategy at the beginning and wanted to increase performance later, which is why we gave the drivers three seconds more time to lap other cars per lap. However, after six hours we saw that you can’t win a race like this and then attacked. In the end this didn’t pay off, but you also don’t win anything here by driving slowly.”

Josef Haider (Sporting Director Audi race experience): “Even though we lost a car at the end we are all completely happy. The seventeenth place is great for the Audi race experience. I’m particularly happy for our customers who made a valuable and wonderful experience. This is something you can build on.”

Markus Winkelhock, Audi R8 LMS ultra #3 (Audi Sport Team Phoenix), 1st position: “It was a super weekend, the weather also played along. It was a massive show and a great atmosphere. The competition was very strong and the cars were at a high level. To be at the very top at the finish is obviously amazing because things didn’t run so sweetly to start. Qualifying wasn’t perfect and we weren’t so good in the opening hours. Today you saw just what can happen in 24 hours. The car was super, the drivers were well suited and the team did a great job. Thanks to everyone who was involved.”

Christian Mamerow, Audi R8 LMS ultra #26 (Mamerow Racing), 2nd position: “I’m so incredibly proud of this entire team that has worked on this wonderful project. It’s simply fantastic to be speaking about a second place here, which I never thought possible beforehand. We produced solid work and got through without any real incidents. This was the key to our success.”

Christopher Mies, Audi R8 LMS ultra #2 (Audi Sport Team Phoenix), 5th position: “It was essentially a good race. We led for many hours, but I had an accident in the early hours of the morning. There was another car as I was approaching the Pflanzgarten 2 section, it braked in front of me and I crashed into the guardrail. At the flag we were fifth, which isn’t what we had hoped for.”

Christian Bollrath, Audi R8 LMS ultra #25 (Audi race experience), 17th position:

“It is my second 24-hour race with the Audi race experience. This year it went even better than in 2011 and to finish 17th is fantastic. The whole race went perfectly. I’ve also improved significantly compared to last year. I’m very pleased.”

Oliver Jarvis, Audi R8 LMS ultra #4 (Speedhunters Team WRT), 32nd position:

“It was certainly a very interesting race. Many incidents and events, but the most important thing is that our pace was really good. In the first few hours we could keep pace with the leading group. We were very competitive, but unfortunately we had contact with another car very early which is why we had to change the steering. Afterwards we fought our way back through the field again. Nevertheless, it was a race that was great fun. Our guys worked fantastically well and we learned a lot.”

Thomas Mutsch, Audi R8 LMS ultra #9 (Raeder Motorsport), retired:

“We had a very good weekend before the accident. The start was good; we got through the night in great shape and excelled with fast lap times. Raeder Motorsport gave us a good car that was also great to drive in the rain. In the morning at the Pflanzgarten I overtook a lapped slower car which changed its line just in front of me. I had to brake hard on the crest and lost the car. An unhappy end when you have come so far and were going well. I would like to say thank you to the Raeder Motorsport team for the fantastic car.”

Alexander Yoong, Audi R8 LMS ultra #24 (Audi race experience), retired:

“I really enjoyed my first 24-hour race with Audi. It was an incredible experience. I was exposed to all the possible weather conditions and I hope my team and Audi were satisfied with me. I also really hope that I can return next year. This is one of the greatest races I have ever seen.”

– End –



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 July 2010, CKD production of the Audi Q5 was added to the existing Audi A4 and A6 manufacturing operations in Aurangabad (India). At the Brussels plant, production of the Audi A1 has been running since May 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 AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft., Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese (Italy), AUDI BRUSSELS S.A./N.V. in Brussels (Belgium) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Subject to a positive decision by the responsible competition authorities, the Italian sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. will also belong to the Audi Group. Audi currently employs around 64,000 people worldwide, including around 48,000 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" slogan. Audi is currently expanding its site in Győr (Hungary) and will start production in Foshan (China) in late 2013 and in Mexico in 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.