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Customer teams determined to clinch third victory for Audi in Australia

- **Six teams to compete with seven Audi R8 LMS cars in Bathurst 12 Hour**
- **Most important endurance race in the Southern Hemisphere**
- **New Audi R8 LMS to race in Australia for the first time**

Ingolstadt, February 1, 2016 – The Audi R8 LMS is facing a special test in Australia. In one of Audi Sport customer racing’s most important markets, the sports car is supposed to continue its string of success in endurance racing. Following victories in the 24-hour race at the Nürburgring and the Sepang 12 Hours last year, the GT3 sports car won the Dubai 24 Hours two weeks ago and the GTD class of the Daytona 24 Hours yesterday as well. On Sunday, February 7, the current generation of the R8 LMS will be tackling the Bathurst 12 Hour for the first time. The previous model had clinched two victories there.

24 race cars from seven manufacturers are meeting in the most powerful class at Bathurst, with Audi being the most popular brand at famous “Mount Panorama.” Six customer teams are relying on a total of seven Audi R8 LMS. No other manufacturer has as many cars in the field of the major Australian endurance race held on the challenging 6.213-kilometer roller-coaster track in the state of New South Wales, and no other manufacturer has won there twice with a GT3 sports car.

“Since 2011, GT3 models have been permitted to form part of the field at Bathurst. A fierce competition has ensued ever since. During this time, Audi has impressed an increasing number of customers with its sports cars: they are no doubt excited about the upcoming premiere of the new car in Australia,” says Romolo Liebchen, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. Four different marques have won the 12-hour race in the past five years. Audi was victorious in 2011 and 2012, most recently with Team Phoenix Racing that will be on the grid again this year.

The livery of the Phoenix Audi takes its cue from the local Bathurst Wiradyuri Aboriginal Community, who contributed to the design. The goanna and the platypus are native animals to Australia, and feature prominently in the design. The goanna is the Wiradyuri people’s totem, while the platypus is the most important dreaming



story in the area. It is the first time a race car with an Australian Indigenous livery has ever competed in a motorsport event.

Laurens Vanthoor (B) and Markus Winkelhock (D) – last year’s runners-up with a gap of just two seconds – are sharing the race car of the German team with local hero Alex Davison.

Among others, their challengers within the Audi brand lineup include Jamec Pem Racing, who won the Australian GT Championship last year. The squad is contesting the race with two new R8 LMS cars. In the cockpits: two-time Bathurst winner Christopher Mies, his German compatriot Christopher Haase and last year’s runner-up Marco Mapelli (I), plus Australians Steven McLaughlan and Garth Tander, who will be sharing driving duties with René Rast (D). The local Supabarn Supermarkets and Arris/GT Motorsport teams are relying on the new generation of the R8 LMS as well. Two of the proven previous models of the race car are completing the lineup of the brand with the four rings – Teams Hallmarc/Network Clothing and International Motorsport are contesting the event with the R8 LMS ultra.

Following the practice sessions on Friday, February 5 and qualifying on Saturday, February 6, the race will be held on Sunday, February 7, from 5:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. local time (7:45 p.m. to 7:45 a.m. CET). While Australian television channel Seven Network will be airing full-length coverage of the race, interested viewers around the globe can watch live streaming of the action on the internet: www.bathurst12hour.com.au

Audi teams at Bathurst

- #2 Audi R8 LMS (Phoenix Racing)
Alex Davison/Laurens Vanthoor/Markus Winkelhock (AUS/B/D)
- #3 Audi R8 LMS (Supabarn Supermarkets)
Shae Davies/James Koundouris/Theo Koundouris/Marcus Marshall
(AUS/AUS/AUS/AUS)
- #5 Audi R8 LMS (Arris/GT Motorsport/Pete & Co)
Nathan Antunes/Barton Mawer/Greg Taylor (AUS/AUS/AUS)
- #9 Audi R8 LMS ultra (Hallmarc/Network Clothing)
Marc Cini/Mark Eddy/Christer Jöns (AUS/AUS/D)
- #74 Audi R8 LMS (Jamec Pem Racing)
Christopher Haase/Marco Mapelli/Christopher Mies (D/I/D)
- #75 Audi R8 LMS (Jamec Pem Racing)
Steven McLaughlan/René Rast/Garth Tander (AUS/D/AUS)
- #82 Audi R8 LMS ultra (International Motorsport)
Rick Armstrong/Andrew Bagnall/Matt Halliday (NZ/NZ/NZ)



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The Audi Group, with its brands Audi, Ducati and Lamborghini, is one of the most successful manufacturers of automobiles and motorcycles in the premium segment. It is present in more than 100 markets worldwide and produces at 16 locations in twelve countries. In the second half of 2016, Audi will start production of the Q5 in San José Chiapa (Mexico). 100-percent subsidiaries of AUDI AG include quattro GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy) and Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy).

In 2015, the Audi Group delivered to customers approximately 1.8 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 3,245 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and about 54,800 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2014 financial year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of €53.8 billion and an operating profit of €5.15 billion. At present, approximately 85,000 people work for the company all over the world, about 60,000 of them in Germany. Audi focuses on new products and sustainable technologies for the future of mobility.