

Communications

Audi Sport customer racing

Eva-Maria Becker

Tel: +49 841 89-33922

E-mail: eva-maria.becker@audi.de

www.audi-mediacycenter.com/en

Disappointment for Audi in Nürburgring 24 Hours

- **Audi Sport Team Land in sixth position best Audi team**
- **Harsh conditions in 46th running of the iconic race in the Eifel**
- **Podium result in TCR class for Bonk Motorsport**

Nürburg/Neuburg a. d. Donau, May 13, 2018 – In the 46th running of the Nürburgring 24 Hours, the Eifel region revealed itself at its worst: Audi Sport customer racing had traveled to the world's biggest automobile race as title defenders, but together with its customer teams suffered some bitter setbacks in the battle for its fifth overall victory. In the end, sixth position by Kelvin van der Linde/Sheldon van der Linde/Christopher Mies/René Rast was the best result in an event in which changeable weather conditions caused the race to be interrupted three and a half hours before the end. The teams contested the final part of the race only after more than a one-hour break.

“On the occasion of Audi Sport customer racing’s tenth anniversary we’d have liked to have shown more to our many fans in terms of the sport,” says Chris Reinke, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. “Our customer teams and the drivers were well prepared and battled for top positions in three different classes. That’s why the results are all the more disappointing. The conditions were extremely difficult, as the interruption of the race showed as well.” The current interim results show the capabilities of the Audi R8 LMS: The GT3 sports car has won the iconic Eifel race an amazing four times to date. The 2018 endurance racing season began well for Audi with a victory in the Bathurst 12 Hour in February. Now the Spa 24 Hours in July will be the next major challenge.

At the Nürburgring, Audi Sport Team Land was battling for a podium finish up until Sunday morning. Kelvin van der Linde, one of last year’s winners with Audi, was engaged in a thrilling battle for third position with Aston Martin when falling victim to the changeable weather. In the Hohe Acht track section, the South African, running on intermediate tires, touched the guard rail and lost three laps due to the repair. Together with his brother Sheldon, Christopher Mies and René Rast he achieved sixth position in the end, trailed directly by Audi Sport Team Phoenix with Christopher Haase/Nico Müller/Frank Stippler/Frédéric Vervisch. Audi Sport Team BWT in its first participation in the Nürburgring 24 Hours finished twelfth with Christopher Haase/Nico Müller/Mike Rockenfeller/Markus Winkelhock. Team BWT Mücke Motorsport with Marcel Fässler/Christer Jöns/Pierre Kaffer/Stefan Mücke achieved position 14. The endurance racing experts of Car Collection Motorsport with their privateer drivers defied the adverse conditions as well. Adrien de Leener, Simon Trummer, Christopher Friedrich and Pierre Kaffer saw the



checkered flag in 20th position. The sister car of Stefan Aust/Christian Bollrath/Ronnie Saurenmann/Peter Schmidt as the best Pro-Am team took position 56. Audi Sport Team WRT, the 2015 winning team, retired after an accident.

The good performances shown by several customer teams in the classes went unrewarded. Team Phoenix Racing was leading the SP 8 class up until the tenth hour with the Audi R8 LMS GT4. However, in the eleventh hour, the strong junior quartet of Milan Dontje/Xiaole He/Max Hofer/Nicolaj Møller Madsen retired with a powertrain defect. In the hard-fought TCR category, Team Prosport-Performance GmbH took the lead in the sixth hour of racing. The seasoned driver lineup of Christoph Breuer/Jürgen Nett/Markus Oestreich/Kenneth Østvold in the Audi RS 3 LMS was running in front up until the 15th hour of racing, remaining within striking distance up until the 18th hour in second position when a defect ended their race. Meanwhile another Audi Sport customer racing team achieved a positive result in this class. Like last year, Bonk Motorsport clinched a podium finish. Hermann Bock/Max Partl/Rainer Partl/Volker Piepmeyer in the Audi RS 3 LMS of the team based in Münster finished third.

– End –

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. 100 percent subsidiaries of AUDI AG include Audi Sport GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy) and Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy).

In 2017, the Audi Group delivered to customers about 1.878 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 3,815 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and 55,900 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2017 fiscal year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of €60.1 billion and an operating profit of €5.1 billion. At present, approximately 90,000 people work for the company all over the world, more than 60,000 of them in Germany. Audi focuses on sustainable products and technologies for the future of mobility.