

**Communications Motorsport**

Daniel Schuster

Tel: +49 841 89-38009

E-mail: [daniel2.schuster@audi.de](mailto:daniel2.schuster@audi.de)

[www.audi-mediacyenter.com](http://www.audi-mediacyenter.com)

## **DTM finale: Audi to mobilize all forces**

- **Audi RS 5 DTM particularly successful at Hockenheim**
- **Audi with minimal chances of taking drivers' and manufacturers' titles**
- **Dieter Gass, Head of DTM at Audi Sport: "We've always been strong at Hockenheim"**

**Ingolstadt, October 12, 2015 – In the eagerly awaited DTM finale at the Hockenheimring on October 17 and 18, Audi's motto will be: 'Maximum attack!'**

"We're going to mobilize all our forces once more and battle for the championships despite the chances are minimal," says Dieter Gass, Head of DTM at Audi Sport.

"We've always been strong at Hockenheim – come rain or shine."

The Audi RS 5 DTM has been unbeaten in the past three races at the Grand Prix circuit in Baden-Württemberg not far from Audi's Neckarsulm plant. In last year's finale at Hockenheim, the brand even notched up a one-two-three triumph. The Audi RS 5 DTM has been the DTM car to be beaten ever since, as eight wins have been celebrated by Audi in the 16 races of the 2015 season held so far. Five times victory went to BMW and three times to Mercedes-Benz.

Theoretically, Audi is still able to win the DTM manufacturers' and drivers' classifications under its own power at Hockenheim. However, to do so, the four rings would have to pull off a performance of similar perfection as the one in Sunday's race at the Lausitzring when Audi finished in the top ten with seven cars.

"Realistically, we have no chance of clinching the title," Audi driver Mattias Ekström knows. But we've seen a lot happening in the DTM this year. It's great for the fans that four drivers from all three brands still have chances of clinching the title. If our rivals should be faltering, we'll be there to grab whatever there's up for grabs." His brand colleague Edoardo Mortara, who scored the largest number of points of all drivers in the Hockenheim season opener and is currently the runner-up in the standings with a one point advantage over Ekström, has similar views. "Obviously, my chances of taking the title shrunk at the Nürburgring," says the Italian. "But for me it's great to still be in the title race for the first time in my DTM career before the

last weekend. It shows me that I've been making progress compared with the previous years. Hockenheim has always been a track I've felt comfortable on. I'm hoping for a positive ending of the season and am going to battle hard."

Dieter Gass, above all, is wishing for 'good, high-caliber racing' and, following the Nürburgring, would like to again confirm at Hockenheim that the RS 5 is the fastest car in the field. "There are good overtaking opportunities at Hockenheim. The performance among the three manufacturers has been very balanced in the most recent races, even when deducting the weight difference," says Gass. "That's why the fans can look forward to two interesting races in which we'd like to sell ourselves as best we can."

The first of the two final races, which might already produce a decision in the title race, will begin on Saturday, October 17, at 13.30. The 18th and last race of the year will start on Sunday, October 18, at 15.15. ARD will be airing live coverage from Hockenheim starting at 13.00 and 15.00, respectively. Additional live streaming will be provided at [www.dtm.com](http://www.dtm.com) and [www.bild.de](http://www.bild.de). Tickets for the season finale at which the first Champion in the Audi Sport TT Cup will be celebrated as well are available online at [www.audi-motorsport.com](http://www.audi-motorsport.com).

**Hashtags:** #AudiSport #DTM #welcomechallenges #DTMFinale

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**Note to editors:**

The two Audi drivers Mattias Ekström and Edoardo Mortara will be available to answer questions at an Audi telephone press conference on Wednesday, October 14, starting at 13.30. Telephone 0800-4556565 (from Germany) or +49 69-210869700 (international). Access code: 01170774.

In 2014, the Audi Group delivered approximately 1,741,100 cars of the Audi brand to its customers. The company achieved revenue of €53.8 billion and an operating profit of €5.15 billion in 2014. Audi operates globally in more than 100 markets and has production facilities in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Brussels (Belgium), Bratislava (Slovakia), Martorell (Spain), Kaluga (Russia), Aurangabad (India), Changchun and Foshan (China) as well as Jakarta (Indonesia). The brand with the Four Rings will start producing cars in Curitiba (Brazil) this year and in San José Chiapa (Mexico) in 2016. Wholly owned subsidiaries of AUDI AG include quattro GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy) and sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy). The company currently employs approximately 80,000 people worldwide, thereof around 58,000 in Germany. Total investment of about €24 billion is planned from 2015 to 2019 – primarily in new products and sustainable technologies. Audi is committed to its corporate responsibility and has anchored the principle of sustainability for its products and processes in its strategy. The long-term goal is CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral mobility.