

**Communications Motorsport**

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## **Edoardo Mortara clinches second place for Audi**

- **Italian now best Audi driver in the DTM drivers' standings**
- **Strong race from fifth on the grid on Saturday**
- **Four Audi RS 5 DTM cars entangled in collisions on starting lap**

**Ingolstadt/Nürburg, September 26, 2015 – With a strong race on Saturday, Audi driver Edoardo Mortara (Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline) advanced to second place in the DTM drivers' standings at the Nürburgring.**

The Italian in his CASTROL Edge Audi RS 5 DTM, in fifth place, had previously been the best Audi driver in the morning's qualifying session. In turn one, Mortara managed to overtake Mercedes drivers Lucas Auer and Pascal Wehrlein, who had started in front of him. Subsequently, he outperformed the BMW of Bruno Spengler as well and held up to the pressure from leader of the standings Pascal Wehrlein up to the checkered flag.

"I'm very happy with my race," Mortara said following his fifth podium result in the 2015 season. "I had a tremendous start today and a fantastic car. We're pleased with second place – but we're aiming for more."

On taking second place, Mortara bumped his teammate Mattias Ekström by one point to third place in the DTM drivers' standings. In an extremely close qualifying session in the morning, the Swede had to settle for 17th place and in the race recovered to position ten although his Red Bull Audi RS 5 DTM had suffered front-end damage in the starting commotion.

In the final stage, Ekström was supported by his brand colleague Mike Rockenfeller, who in the Schaeffler Audi RS 5 DTM of Audi Sport Team Phoenix had been defending position six for a long time. However, in a tussle with Mercedes driver Maximilian Götz, he lost several positions and in the end had to settle for an unrewarding eleventh place.

Adrien Tambay in his Playboy Audi RS 5 DTM took position 14 after having started



from the last row following an accident in qualifying. Nico Müller in the Audi Financial Services Audi RS 5 DTM of Audi Sport Team Rosberg finished Saturday's race in position 16, after being forced to get out of the way in the starting commotion and losing a lot of ground.

Even worse misfortune struck his teammate Jamie Green, who in his Hoffmann Group Audi RS 5 DTM had started the race with good prospects from the fourth row of the grid. Shortly following the start, the Briton was sent into a spin by BMW driver Tom Blomqvist and subsequently hit by Miguel Molina (Teufel Audi RS 5 DTM). This immediately ended the race for both of them. Timo Scheider (AUTO TEST Audi RS 5 DTM) became entangled in the collision as well and retired after eleven laps.

"We already lost the chance of scoring a better result in qualifying today," said Dieter Gass, Head of DTM at Audi Sport. "We had four cars in the top ten but, unfortunately, at the wrong end of the first five rows. Edo's (Mortara) performance in the race was top. That as many as four of our cars became entangled in collisions on lap one – including two of our three title candidates – is obviously very frustrating."

Before the last three DTM races of the 2015 season, Edoardo Mortara and Mattias Ekström are trailing leader of the standings Pascal Wehrlein by 27 and 28 points, respectively. A total of 75 points are yet to be awarded. Sunday's race at the Nürburgring will start at 13.25 (live on 'Das Erste').

– End –

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.