

Communications Motorsport

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Edoardo Mortara takes grid position three for Audi

- Thrilling DTM qualifying at the Red Bull Ring (Austria)
- Three Audi RS 5 DTM on the first three rows of the grid
- Controversial penalty for leader of the standings Mike Rockenfeller

Ingolstadt/Spielberg, June 1, 2013 – With grid positions three, five and six, Audi has achieved a solid starting base for the DTM race at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg (Sunday live on “Das Erste” starting at 13:15). The fastest Audi driver in qualifying was last year’s winner Edoardo Mortara in the Playboy Audi RS 5 DTM of Audi Sport Team Rosberg.

This year marks the third visit of the DTM to the 4.326-kilometer Red Bull Ring in Spielberg. And for the third time, Edoardo Mortara managed to qualify for the shoot-out that determines the top four grid positions. In the end, the Italian had to succumb to the two BMW drivers Bruno Spengler and Marco Wittmann by just a narrow margin.

“In Q4, I was struggling a bit with warming up the tires,” said the Audi driver. “But I’m happy and satisfied that we’ve found our form from last year again. Last year, I clinched my first victory here. Now we’ve managed the best qualifying this season so far after suffering a lot of misfortune on the first two race weekends.”

The spectators at Spielberg and TV viewers saw another extremely thrilling DTM qualifying session in which the entire field was separated by less than a second. As is often the case in the DTM, hundredths and thousandths decided about being ‘out’ or moving on to the next qualifying segment.

Timo Scheider (AUTO TEST Audi RS 5 DTM/Audi Sport Team Abt) and Mortara’s team-mate Filipe Albuquerque (Audi Financial Services RS 5 DTM) in fifth and sixth place just barely missed the leap into the top four. With Mike Rockenfeller (Schaeffler Audi RS 5 DTM/Audi Sport Team Phoenix) in position eight, another Audi driver made it into the top ten.

“After the victory at Brands Hatch we decided that we’d make a more cohesive showing at the front, and with three Audi RS 5 DTM cars on the first three rows of the grid we managed to do this pretty well today,” commented Dieter Gass, Head of DTM at Audi Sport. “Naturally, we’d have liked clinching the third consecutive pole position but BMW was a little bit faster in this close qualifying. Congratulations to Munich but congratulations also to Edo (Mortara), who made it into Q4 for the third time in succession here at the Red Bull Ring. Now we’re all very eager to see what the weather will be doing tomorrow.”

For race day, changeable weather has been forecast in Styria. And the starting grid will change as well, due to controversial penalties: Before qualifying started, Mike Rockenfeller (8) and Jamie Green (17) were each moved back by five positions on the grid. In the opinion of the sport stewards, both drivers had failed to sufficiently reduce their speed in a dangerous sector in the morning’s free practice. For this reason, the grid positions of Mattias Ekström (15), Adrien Tambay (18) and Miguel Molina (20) are partially provisional at the moment as well.

Audi has been unbeaten in the DTM so far at the new Red Bull Ring in Spielberg. In 2011, Martin Tomczyk won and in 2012 Edoardo Mortara. Fans around the world can watch the race live on the DTM’s new YouTube channel on www.youtube.com/dtmint on Sunday from 13:30. 39 TV channels in total air live coverage of the DTM in 141 countries.

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The Audi Group delivered 1,455,123 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2012. In 2012, the company posted revenue of €48.8 billion and an operating profit of €5.4 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 November 2012, CKD production of the Audi Q7 was added to the existing Audi A4, A6 and Q5 manufacturing operations in Aurangabad (India). At the Brussels plant, production of the Audi A1 has been running since 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. (Győr, Hungary), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant’Agata Bolognese, Italy), AUDI BRUSSELS S.A./N.V. (Brussels, Belgium), quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm and the sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy). Audi currently employs more than 70,000 people worldwide, including around 50,000 in Germany. The brand with the four rings plans to invest a total of around €11 billion by 2015 – mainly in new products and the expansion of production capacities – in order to sustain the company’s technological lead embodied in its “Vorsprung durch Technik” claim. Audi is currently expanding its site in Győr (Hungary) and will start production in Foshan (China) in late 2013 and in San José Chiapa (Mexico) in 2016.

Audi lives up to its corporate responsibility and regards sustainability not only as a basis for financial success, but also as essential to ensure a worthwhile future for the generations to come. The company has therefore strategically established sustainability as a principle for its products and processes. Corporate responsibility includes fuel-efficient products, resource-efficient production processes, a future-oriented and fair personnel policy, effective involvement in society and responsible business operations in general. This gives the motto of “Vorsprung durch Technik” a new dimension that extends far beyond the products. The ultimate goal is CO₂-neutral mobility.