

Communications Motorsport

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Front row of the grid for Audi and Lucas di Grassi in Brazil

- **Strong debut by local hero Lucas di Grassi**
- **Audi R18 ultra ahead of R18 e-tron quattro for the first time**
- **Good starting positions for both cars for fifth race of the season**

Ingolstadt/São Paulo, September 14, 2012 – Successful beginning: A day after Lucas di Grassi celebrated his debut with Audi Sport Team Joest, the Brazilian made a strong showing at his home round. In qualifying for the fifth round of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC), he posted the fastest time by an Audi racer and will start from position two on the front row. His team-mate André Lotterer took third place.

Right from the beginning, Lucas di Grassi in the Audi R18 ultra kept the upper hand within the team in qualifying. The 28-year-old pro from São Paulo was faster on his three timed laps in the number “2” Audi than his team-mate André Lotterer in the Audi R18 e-tron quattro designated as car number “1.”

Lotterer, who said that he had tackled his first timed lap too conservatively, reduced the team-internal deficit in the course of four laps from an initial 1.623 to 0.185 seconds. In the end, though, the German, who had set the fastest time in qualifying this year at Sebring and at Le Mans, had to admit defeat.

After the two R18 cars had finished their qualifying trials as planned, challenger Toyota countered and in the end achieved the best lap time. With that, Audi had to admit defeat in qualifying for the first time in the 2012 WEC season.

The relative strength on a timed lap, though, should not prejudice the performances to be expected during the six-hour race on Saturday. Audi thoroughly prepared for the fifth race of the season in all practice sessions, tested various tire options and strategic scenarios. Therefore, fans can expect to see a thrilling battle of the concepts on the 4-309-kilometer track tomorrow.



Eurosport will broadcast the race live (start: Saturday 12:00-16:00 local time/17:00 -21:00 CEST plus the last 15 minutes). The broadcast of the fifth round can be watched live on the internet also – www.audi-liveracing.com offers complete coverage.

Qualifying results

- 1 Wurz/Lapierre (Toyota) 1m 22.363s
- 2 di Grassi/Kristensen/McNish (Audi R18 ultra) 1m 23.147s
- 3 Fässler/Lotterer/Tréluyer (Audi R18 e-tron quattro) 1m 23.332s
- 4 Prost/Jani (Lola-Toyota) 1m 23.962s
- 5 Leventis/Watts/Kane (HPD-Honda) 1m 24.089s
- 6 Belicchi/Primat (Lola-Toyota) 1m 24.179s
- 7 Brabham/Chandhok/Dumbreck (HPD-Honda) 1m 24.320s
- 8 Potolicchio/Dalziel/Sarrazin (HPD-Honda) 1m 27.048s
- 9 Martin/Charouz/Graves (Oreca-Nissan) 1m 27.153s
- 10 Panciatici/Ragues/Rusinov (Oreca-Nissan) 1m 27.167s

– End –

The Audi Group delivered 1,302,659 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2011. In 2011, the Company posted revenue of €44.1 billion and an operating profit of €5.3 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 July 2010, CKD production of the Audi Q5 was added to the existing Audi A4 and A6 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 amongst others 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 bike manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna/Italy). Audi currently employs around 65,000 people worldwide, including around 48,000 in Germany. Between 2012 and 2016 the brand with the four rings is planning to invest a total of €13 billion – mainly in new products and the extension 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 has long been fulfilling its social responsibility on many levels – with the aim of making the future worth living for generations to come. The basis for Audi's lasting success is therefore formed by environmental protection, the conservation of resources, international competitiveness and a forward-looking human resources policy. One example of AUDI AG's commitment to environmental issues is the Audi Environmental Foundation. Within the context of "Vorsprung durch Technik," which extends far beyond its products, the Company is directing its activities toward a major goal – comprehensive CO₂-neutral mobility.