



Communications Motorsport

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Important DTM weekend for Audi

- **Nürburgring may bring preliminary decision in title race**
- **Title candidate Mattias Ekström has won twice before in the Eifel**
- **Ekström: “Finally, we’re competing on an equal footing again”**

Ingolstadt, September 21, 2015 – The Audi DTM squad is facing a particularly important race weekend: the Nürburgring, on September 26 and 27, may produce a preliminary decision in the DTM title race – in the drivers’ as well as in the manufacturers’ championship.

In both classifications, Audi is lying in wait before the last two race weekends of the 2015 season. Mattias Ekström as the runner-up in the standings is trailing Mercedes driver Pascal Wehrlein with a deficit of only 14 points. In the manufacturers’ standings, Audi is holding position two as well.

“Obviously, we’d like to travel to the finale at Hockenheim in October as the front runners in both classifications,” says Dieter Gass, Head of DTM at Audi Sport. “As we’re finally going to compete with comparable weights again at the Nürburgring the chance that we will do so definitely exists.” The success-induced ‘performance weights’ are playing a crucial part in the popular touring car racing series this season. Audi has won every other of the 14 races so far, so the Audi RS 5 DTM cars have been loaded with weights corresponding to the brand’s success. At the Nürburgring, Mattias Ekström’s car will be lighter for the very first time this year than the Mercedes-Benz of his fiercest rival Pascal Wehrlein, who has had an average weight advantage of 6.1 kilograms so far.

“At the Nürburgring, we’ll be competing on an equal footing,” says a pleased Mattias Ekström. In 2005 and 2011, the Swede won in the Eifel. Next weekend, he will have the chance to recapture the lead of the standings. If he wins both races, the Audi driver, irrespective of Wehrlein’s results, will be the front runner in the Championship again.

The lead of the standings has changed an amazing seven times in the 2015 DTM – between the four drivers who after 14 of the 18 races are holding the top four



positions. Three of them are Audi drivers. In addition to Ekström, Edoardo Mortara (-30 points) and Jamie Green (-33 points) continue to be in the title race. 100 points are yet to be awarded in the remaining four races.

“The Nürburgring has always suited me especially well,” says Edoardo Mortara. The Italian has been on podium in the Eifel twice, most recently last year. Jamie Green expresses a fighting spirit as well: “My RS 5 DTM is a winning car. I can hardly wait to be driving it with less weight again.”

A look at last year’s grid reveals that the Audi RS 5 DTM ‘is comfortable’ on the short configuration of the Nürburgring covering a distance of 3.629 kilometers. In 2014, five of the top six spots went to Audi.

Those who would like to witness the race live at the Nürburgring can secure tickets at www.audi-motorsport.com. As usual, ARD will be airing live coverage of both races: on Saturday, starting at 13.00 (CEST) and on Sunday, starting at 13.20. Additional live streaming will be available at dtm.com and bild.de. The Audi Sport TT Cup will be competing on its penultimate race weekend of the year in the Eifel as well.

Hashtags: #AudiSport #DTM #welcomechallenges #DTMNuerburgring

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Note to editors:

Audi driver Mike Rockenfeller will be available to answer questions at an Audi telephone press conference on Wednesday, September 23, starting at 13.30. Telephone 0800-4556565 (from Germany) or +49 69-210869700 (international). Access code: 14769268.

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 CO₂-neutral mobility.