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Le Mans dress rehearsal for Audi at Spa

- **Three R15 TDI cars in 1000-kilometer race at Spa-Francorchamps**
- **Final assessment before Le Mans 24 Hours**
- **Le Mans record winner Tom Kristensen is fit for racing again**

Ingolstadt, April 29, 2010 – After the victorious test race at the Le Mans Series season opener and a successful 30-hour test at Le Castellet (France) the Le Mans dress rehearsal is now on Audi Sport Team Joest's agenda: on May 9, the three Audi R15 TDI cars will contest the 1000-kilometer race at Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium).

"We will compete with exactly the same line-up at Spa as we will a month later at the Le Mans 24 Hours," says Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. "For the team the race is primarily a dress rehearsal for Le Mans – but it's a final assessment of where we stand as well."

Entries for 52 vehicles have been submitted for the 1000-kilometer race at Spa-Francorchamps including four Peugeot 908 cars. The first meeting of the "factory" teams from Audi and Peugeot with the 2010-spec vehicles is expected with a particularly high level of suspense and should provide a foretaste of the season's highlight at Le Mans that is on the agenda exactly 34 days later.

"There's no circuit in the world on which you can truly simulate the Le Mans track," says Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. "Still, I do believe that at Spa it's possible to get an idea of where you stand compared with the competition."

Audi's development program for the diesel race sports car that is internally designated as "R15 plus" has been on schedule so far. In mid-April Audi Sport Team Joest successfully completed a 30-hour endurance test at the high-speed track at Le Castellet (France).

"We haven't had such a good endurance run for a long time," comments Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. "This has completed our durability testing. Now we're able to fully



concentrate on the performance of the R15 plus and smooth preparation for the race in the time that remains until Le Mans.”

All nine Audi drivers who are planned to contest the 2010 Le Mans 24 Hours participated in the 30-hour test at Le Castellet – including Tom Kristensen who has recovered well from his foot injury and will run in the 1000-kilometer race at Spa-Francorchamps together with Dindo Capello and Allan McNish.

“I did a lot of driving at Le Castellet and had no problems whatsoever,” says the Le Mans record winner. “I only felt some pain during the driver changes – but I’m definitely fit and ready for Spa!”

Capello, Kristensen and McNish will drive the Audi R15 TDI designated as car number 7. Marcel Fässler, André Lotterer and Benoît Treluyer (car number 8) and Timo Bernhard, Romain Dumas and Mike Rockenfeller (car number 9) form the other two driver teams. All three cars are fielded by Audi Sport Team Joest, with the R15 TDI (car number 9) officially running under the entry submitted by Audi Sport North America.

Practice at Spa-Francorchamps will start on Friday (May 7). The 1000-kilometer race will start on Sunday (May 9) at 11:30 hrs. Audi has won the endurance classic in the Belgian Ardennes twice with the R8, in 2003 and 2004. In the 2008 season – Audi Sport Team Joest’s only entry at Spa so far – Alexandre Prémat and Mike Rockenfeller at the wheel of an Audi R10 TDI finished as the runners-up.



The schedule at Spa-Francorchamps

Friday, May 7

12:05–13:05 Free practice 1

16:25–17:25 Free practice 2

Saturday, May 8

09:45–10:45 Free practice 3

13:50–14:10 Qualifying (GT cars)

14:20–14:40 Qualifying (prototypes)

Sunday, May 9

09:00–09:20 Warm-up

11:30–17:30 Race (143 laps)

AUDI Group sold around 950,000 cars in 2009. The Company posted revenue of €29.8 billion and an operating profit of €1.6 billion. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). Aurangabad in India saw the start of CKD production of the Audi A6 at the end of 2007 and of the Audi A4 in early October 2008. The Company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG's wholly owned subsidiaries include AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft., Automobili Lamborghini Holding S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese (Italy) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi currently employs around 58,000 people worldwide, including 45,500 in Germany. Between 2010 and 2012 the Audi Group is planning to invest around €5.5 billion in order to sustain the Company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" slogan. By 2015, Audi plans to significantly increase the number of models in its portfolio to 42.

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 newly established Audi Environmental Foundation.