

Communications Motorsport

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Positive test day for Audi at Le Mans

- Audi in positions three, five and six
- Three Audi R18 e-tron quattro cars covered almost 4,000 kilometers
- Difficult conditions in changeable weather

Ingolstadt/Le Mans, May 31, 2015 – At Le Mans, Audi thoroughly prepared for the 24-hour race to be held in two weeks from now. On the official test day for the most important endurance race of the year, the three Audi R18 e-tron quattro cars completed detailed programs and reeled off 288 laps. On June 13 and 14, Audi will be battling for its 14th victory in the Le Mans 24 Hours at La Sarthe.

Audi's engineers and race drivers concentrated on setting up the three hybrid sports cars for a circuit that can only be driven on twice a year – on the test day and during the week of the race. The work was centered on settings for kinematics, dampers and aerodynamics. In addition, the drivers tested various types of tires. In the morning, Audi Sport Team Joest managed to work out a solid basic set-up on a dry track before rain set in.

Significantly varying precipitation constantly changed the conditions during the eight-hour test day. "Obviously, something like this is less than perfect but we knew the weather forecast and these conditions can of course be relevant for the race," said Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. "Still, we can be satisfied with our work because our R18 e-tron quattro cars were running impeccably."

The Audi drivers were already the busiest of all squads in the morning. Marcel Fässler/André Lotterer/Benoît Tréluyer (CH/D/F), Lucas di Grassi/Lôic Duval/Oliver Jarvis (BR/F/GB) and Filipe Albuquerque/Marco Bonanomi/René Rast (P/I/D) clocked a total of 1,935.318 kilometers in the first half of the test. By the end of the day, this number had increased to 3,925.152 kilometers. "That there were almost no interruptions is a positive. As a result, all our drivers spent a lot of time on track and familiarized themselves with the circuit in different conditions," says Chris Reinke, Head of LMP.



The fastest Audi driver was Marco Bonanomi, who needed 3m 22.307s for one lap in the morning. In the aggregated results of both practice sessions, Albuquerque/Bonanomi/Rast finished the test day in third place, Fässler/Lotterer/Tréluyer took fifth place and di Grassi/Duval/Jarvis achieved sixth position. The next few days, Audi Sport Team Joest will be preparing the three race cars at Le Mans for the race week that will begin with scrutineering on June 7.

- 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 CO₂-neutral mobility.