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Quotes after qualifying at Le Mans

Ingolstadt/Le Mans, June 11, 2010 – Audi Sport Team Joest has been concentrating on race preparation during the two practice days at the Le Mans 24 Hours. The quotes from the Audi camp after qualifying.

Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich (Head of Audi Motorsport): “We used the two qualifying sessions today very well and clearly improved the cars. Now I’m quite satisfied with the improved performance compared to 2009. Now we will put all knowledge which we collected with the three cars together and tie a strong package to be prepared as good as possible for the race.”

Ralf Jüttner (Technical Director Audi Sport Team Joest): “Another day without any technical issues. That is very good and important news for us. We have analysed the data from yesterday and stuck to our program. Fortunately it was a big improvement on all three cars. Between the two sessions today we put all the puzzle together and the result was, that all drivers were happy with their cars. That the guys did some fast laps at the end was a nice thing to have but not our main target. No we can look forward to the race.”

Timo Bernhard (Audi R15 TDI #9): “Contrary to the weather forecast it was mostly dry both yesterday and today. That was good. Thanks to the quite good grip we could work on our long runs and Mike (Rockenfeller) set the best time of our car at the end of the third qualifying session with a new set of tires. He did a very good job and regained fifth positions for us. We’d been there already yesterday. This is a good basis for the race.”

Romain Dumas (Audi R15 TDI #9): “It was good, we improved the car and it was nice. I think we made a big step today already. We have to continue this in the warm-up and than we’ll see.”

Mike Rockenfeller (Audi R15 TDI #9): “It was a good day because we tried out a lot – and with success. The car feels very good, which is most important for a 24-hour race. Of course, you need confidence in the team and in the car – and I have this. We are well positioned and have a good set-up. I am confident.”

Dindo Capello (Audi R15 TDI #7): “That was a good day for us. Compared to yesterday we improved our R15 in many ways. It helped us that the track was dry again today. Now we are competitive, ready to race and look forward to the start on Saturday.”

Tom Kristensen (Audi R15 TDI #7): “We’ve seen a very strong pace from Peugeot on both days. We are a lot closer today. We have worked on our programs and tried to optimize different aerodynamic aspects and the mechanical grip. And we’ve been trying to gather the feedback on all three cars. We think we have quite a good setup to go into the race.”

Allan McNish (Audi R15 TDI #7): “Between yesterday and today everybody worked hard to use the three programs and bring together some big improvements on the setups and the balance of the car. Overall Dindo (Capello), Tom (Kristensen) and I got a bit more of a feeling of what we wanted for a race car in the 24 hours – which in our opinion is more important than the qualifying.”

Marcel Fässler (Audi R15 TDI #8): “I got a run on fresh tires on Thursday evening to set a quick time. Unfortunately I had some traffic, and therefore I’m not so happy with the time we achieved. Nevertheless, I am satisfied with the setup for the long distance of the race and confident for the outcome.”

André Lotterer (Audi R15 TDI #8): “The qualifying session went better today than the day before. We have focused on further improving the car. And we succeeded. My team-mate Marcel Fässler tried to set a good qualifying lap, then we focussed again on the preparation for the race. We therefore did not push as it would have been possible. Instead, we have tried different tire compounds. We are closer to the competition – and that is good in any case.”

Benoît Treluyer (Audi R15 TDI #8): “Today we have made good progress. The car has been further developed in the right direction. We closed the gap to Peugeot a lot, although our competitor was really looking for pure qualifying times in the end. Peugeot was not able to improve their times from the previous day. We made real progress. And we have focussed on the work for the race. This is a good omen for the race.”

The Audi Group sold around 950,000 cars of the Audi brand 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. Production of the new Audi A1 has been running at the Brussels plant since May 2010. 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, mainly in new products, in order to sustain the Company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" slogan. By 2015, Audi plans to 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.