



Communications Motorsport

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Quotes after qualifying at the Norisring

Ingolstadt/Nuremberg, June 30, 2012 – Mattias Ekström as the best Audi driver will be starting from the second row into the DTM race at the Norisring. Quotes after qualifying.

Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich (Head of Audi Motorsport): “On the whole, it was a disappointing qualifying session for us. If you want to take something positive from this, then it’s the fact that Mattias (Ekström) drove the fastest lap in qualifying. At the Norisring, everything has got to fit together perfectly – and today we didn’t achieve this in the form of the solid team performance we’ve been showing lately. But if we manage to draw on our full strength in the race again, then we’ll certainly have our say in the action at the front of the field.”

Mattias Ekström (Red Bull Audi A5 DTM), grid position 4

“The second row is okay – but that’s all. I must admit that I’m a bit disappointed because my intention was to battle for pole. Our car was good for that but in all fairness I’ve got to say that the competition was quicker at the crucial moment. Congratulations on that. But points are only awarded in the race. The large crowd of Audi fans at the track deserves the full commitment of our squad. Nothing’s lost yet but of course everything’s a lot more difficult from position four than from pole.”

Edoardo Mortara (Playboy Audi A5 DTM), grid position 10

“Qualifying was very difficult. I tried everything but more than this was not possible.”

Mike Rockenfeller (Schaeffler Audi A5 DTM), grid position 11

“As expected, it was very tight. We improved the car some more for qualifying. It was a shame not to be part of Q3. Now we’ve got to fight and drive a good race. I’m hoping that in that case we’ve got some chances.”



Adrien Tambay (Audi ultra A5 DTM), grid position 12

“Qualifying was close – as usual. We very barely missed Q3. That’s a shame because it would have been nice to reach Q3 for the third time. But grid position twelve is okay. From there I’ll be able to fight for points in the race.”

Filipe Albuquerque (TV Movie Audi A5 DTM), grid position 13

“Qualifying was difficult for everyone. We were only lacking a couple of hundredths for Q3. 13th place isn’t fantastic and wasn’t my goal either. It’ll be hard in the race but I’ll be fighting for points.”

Miguel Molina (Red Bull Audi A5 DTM), grid position 20

“Qualifying wasn’t good. I’m on grid position 20. My car wasn’t fast. We had changed the set-up for qualifying and that didn’t work out. We’re expecting a tough race. We need to wait how the weather and the heat will develop and how our tires will work.”

Timo Scheider (AUTO TEST Audi A5 DTM), grid position 21

“We’re in for a long night today in order to carefully analyze what went wrong in qualifying. The penultimate place is a huge disappointment, there’s no doubt about it. But it’s also motivation to start a recovery for the spectators tomorrow that will take us as far to the front as possible.”

Rahel Frey (E-POSTBRIEF Audi A5 DTM), grid position 22

“After free practice I was very positive. I was hoping that we’d be able to build on that in qualifying. But it didn’t work out. There was nothing working for me in qualifying.”

Hans-Jürgen Abt (Team Director Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline): “We can’t really be happy. But we could see how close it was. The first two qualifying sessions were very good. The shoot-out in the end didn’t really work out, so before you know it you’re on the second row. But we’re going to fight in the race.”

Ernst Moser (Team Director Audi Sport Team Phoenix): “That was truly hard labor. From the first practice session on, we were still looking for the optimal set-up for the Norisring in order to squeeze out the final thousandth here. ‘Rocky’ (Mike Rockenfeller) was quite happy with the car in qualifying; unfortunately, he was lacking four thousandths for Q3. But we’re on a good track here and will continue to work on that up to the race. In Miguel’s (Molina) case we went into the same direction with the set-up. Unfortunately, he was having difficulties with the car and



when that happens, you quickly find yourself on grid position 20 here. Now we're going to work on bringing him farther toward the front in the race."

Arno Zensen (Team Director Audi Sport Team Rosberg): "Honestly speaking, I'd been expecting a bit more. I expected that on the whole we'd be closer to the front but actually Mattias Ekström was the only one who was in contention. We were too slow and Edo Mortara had brake problems. We've got to analyze that."

- 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 AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft., Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese (Italy), AUDI BRUSSELS S.A./N.V. in Brussels (Belgium) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Subject to a positive decision by the responsible competition authorities, the Italian sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. will also belong to the Audi Group. 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" slogan. Audi is currently expanding its site in Győr (Hungary) and will start production in Foshan (China) in late 2013 and in 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.