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Quotes after qualifying at the Red Bull Ring

Ingolstadt/Spielberg, June 2, 2012 – First pole position for Edoardo Mortara (Audi Sport Team Rosberg), two Audi A5 DTM cars on the top three spots of the grid – quotes after qualifying at the Red Bull Ring.

Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich (Head of Audi Motorsport): “This pole position is a first reward for the hard work that was done in the past two weeks. It’s nice to see that it bore its first fruit here at least in qualifying. I’m also very happy for ‘Edo’ (Mortara), who made it into Q4 here at Spielberg for the first time last year in his first DTM season – the Red Bull Ring obviously suits him. ‘Eki’ showed a strong performance as well. I think that we’re on a good track if we continue in our efforts. Our goal, naturally, is to convert the good qualifying results into good race results tomorrow – because that would complete the reward for the work of our squad.”

Edoardo Mortara (Playboy Audi A5 DTM), grid position 1

“It’s simply incredible: my first pole position in the DTM! What can I say? Thank you to my guys from Team Rosberg, thank you to Audi Sport! The car was really great to drive today, truly enjoyable, even though we had some difficulties yesterday. I made a small mistake and slipped off the track. But that was yesterday. Today we’re celebrating pole!”

Mattias Ekström (Red Bull Audi A5 DTM), grid position 3

“That was a good qualifying session! In the third section I had three free laps and was thus able to finally make it into the last round again. It’s always the same there: Only a driver who doesn’t make the slightest mistake will end up on pole. I made a slight mistake. But the race is tomorrow, and we’ll give everything to be in contention for victory then.”

Filipe Albuquerque (TV Movie Audi A5 DTM), grid position 8

“That was a very difficult qualifying session. The car was anything but easy to drive. Every single qualifying section had to be looked at by itself. In the end I was eighth. I was very happy to have made it into Q3. I found it difficult to develop a feel for the car. The track kept getting hotter, my car had heavier understeer and I was hardly able to make good use of the new tires. That’s a real shame!”

Miguel Molina (Red Bull Audi A5 DTM), grid position 12

“The beginning was very good. But for Q2 we risked using only one set of tires. On my first flying lap I then had to lift because there was a car in front of me. Afterward, I had to find my rhythm again. Now we’re starting from position 12. The positive thing is that we’ve still got a set of new tires.”

Mike Rockenfeller (Schaeffler Audi A5 DTM), grid position 13

“Naturally, 13th place is disappointing. It’s hard to find the right words for it. I can’t tell right away where I could have driven faster. I squeezed the maximum out of it and more than that was simply not possible today. It would be good if we could find out what the problem was. In that case, things might be going differently for us on Sunday. There’s still quite a bit possible in the race. Maybe the weather will help us a little in the end.”

Adrien Tambay (Audi ultra A5 DTM), grid position 15

“Qualifying was tough. We made quite a few changes to the car after the free practice session in the morning. We could have achieved position eleven but it would have been difficult to make it into Q3 as I had a lot of traffic on the last lap. Now we’re concentrating on the race. We’ve still got a lot of work to do on the car – and the track is new for me as well.”

Timo Scheider (AUTO TEST Audi A5 DTM), grid position 16

“Another disappointing qualifying session. We don’t have an answer at the moment as to what went wrong. The lap was okay, and so was balance – but the lap time was missing.”

Rahel Frey (E-POSTBRIEF Audi A5 DTM), grid position 21

“This was yet another difficult qualifying session. We’d been shooting for Q2 for this weekend and things were looking well after free practice. But my qualifying performance still isn’t what I’d like it to be. At least, I made another small step forward and am on position 21.”

Hans-Jürgen Abt (Team Director Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline): “This qualifying session was really a thriller. It’s great to be back in Q4 but we did an additional lap on our tires. You could tell that by Mattias Ekström’s time. ‘Well done’ to Edo (Mortara). He did a great job. I’m hoping for a good race.”

Ernst Moser (Team Director Audi Sport Team Phoenix): “Congratulations to Audi, to Team Rosberg and of course to Edo Mortara on clinching the pole position at

Spielberg. Last year we were on pole, this time it's Team Rosberg. It was a tough qualifying session. Unless everything fits one hundred percent, you don't move forward. For the first time in a longer period of time we didn't make it into Q3. We're going to analyze this now and work hard for the warm-up and the race."

Arno Zensen (Team Director Audi Sport Team Rosberg): "This is an incredible day for Audi Sport Team Rosberg. The whole weekend had already been going well for us. In free practice on Saturday morning we were on positions one and two. Before qualifying I told Dr. Ullrich that we'd be trying to repeat this result ... but I didn't really believe we would. So that makes me all the happier about having achieved grid position one for the first time with Audi. Sincere congratulations to Edo (Mortara), he was running really well. Filipe (Albuquerque) complemented the result in eighth place. He might have even achieved a slightly better result, but I'm very, very happy and pleased today."

– 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 May 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 64,000 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.