

Communications Motorsport

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Quotes after qualifying at Zandvoort

Ingolstadt/Zandvoort, September 27, 2014 – Mike Rockenfeller on pole, four Audi drivers in the top five – quotes after qualifying at Zandvoort.

Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich (Head of Audi Motorsport): “That we’re strong in qualifying is nothing new. It shows how fast our RS 5 DTM is. But the pole position is just half the battle. Now it’s about everybody fully concentrating on their task and doing a perfect job. Then we’ve got a chance of clinching our long overdue first season victory in the DTM and the lead in the manufacturers’ championship.”

Dieter Gass (Head of DTM): “This was a superb performance today. Four Audi cars in the top five, one on pole – and, what’s more, it’s one we didn’t necessarily expect to be there before the weekend. When Mike (Rockenfeller) arrived here he wasn’t in the best of health. But today he really made believers out of everybody, delivered a top performance and put the RS 5 DTM on the pole position. But we saw the other drivers in very, very strong form as well. We can look forward to a thrilling race tomorrow.”

Mike Rockenfeller (Schaeffler Audi RS 5 DTM), grid position 1

“It was very close today and that’ll be the case again tomorrow in the race. I believe that Marco (Wittmann) is super-fast here. Of course we’re going to try and counter that with all we’ve got. But we’re starting from the better position. I hope that’ll be the small but crucial advantage for winning the race.”

Edoardo Mortara (Audi Sport Audi RS 5 DTM), grid position 3

“It was a very good day for us. Four Audi cars in the top five and Mike (Rockenfeller) on pole. Congratulations! He did a great job in Q3. With that, we’ve got good chances for the race because our aim is to score as many points as possible for the manufacturers’, teams’ and drivers’ standings.”

Jamie Green (Hoffmann Group Audi RS 5 DTM), grid position 4

“Qualifying went really well but in Q3 of all times it wasn’t completely perfect. The speed I had in Q1 and Q2 was promising. Then, in Q3, I had a small problem with the power steering and slight vibrations – that was a bit disturbing. In the middle

sector, there was a bit of oversteer. That cost time. These two issues occurred in Q3. Frustrating – but we’re obviously consistently fast.”

Nico Müller (Audi Financial Services RS 5 DTM), grid position 5

“Grid position five is okay, it’s very good actually. But it was a hairy qualifying session. In Q1, nothing was possible and I haven’t got a clue why. On the first set of tires in Q3 we weren’t quite on the mark either. If the car had felt the way it had in Q2, clearly more would have been possible. You could again see how close it is. You’re only at the very front if everything fits.”

Mattias Ekström (Red Bull Audi RS 5 DTM), grid position 9

“It was surely not my very best lap in qualifying but, still, I was happy with fourth place. I’ve got to accept the penalty for the alleged obstruction of Gary (Paffett) but it was definitely not intentional. It was close in this stage of qualifying. I was careful not to get in the way of several rivals and obviously failed to notice him.”

Miguel Molina (Audi Sport Audi RS 5 DTM), grid position 10

“Looking back on this morning, we made good progress. We improved the car for qualifying and that was positive. It was the way it always is in the DTM – very close. Sometimes fortune’s on your side and sometimes it isn’t. The gap for making it into Q3 was very small.”

Adrien Tambay (Playboy Audi RS 5 DTM), grid position 12

“Not exactly one of my best qualifying sessions. I tried everything and the lap wasn’t too bad either. But we simply weren’t fast enough. Now we’ve got to find out where we can still gain some more time and strike back tomorrow.”

Timo Scheider (AUTO TEST Audi RS 5 DTM), grid position 16

“I was incredibly excited about traveling to Zandvoort because this track has always suited me. In the past, it was possible to compensate for a less than perfect set-up here. But today, ever since the free practice session, we’ve been trailing our internal competitors, as well as the competition on the whole, by a big margin. It’s a shame especially because we’ve got no answer yet. Congratulations to Mike (Rockenfeller) on taking the pole position. That’s a great energy boost for the whole squad. But I’m disappointed.”

Hans-Jürgen Abt (Team Director Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline): “It was a very tight situation. The front cars were very close. We can be pleased with positions three and four. But the main focus is on the solid team result for Audi because we’re battling for the manufacturers’ championship. The grid positions give us good prerequisites for the race.”



Ernst Moser (Team Director Audi Sport Team Phoenix): “We finally managed to be at the very front on Saturday. The long-awaited pole position! ‘Rocky’ (Mike Rockenfeller) kept us in suspense for a long time, but wrapped it all up on the most important lap. Congratulations to him and the whole squad now that we’re finally starting from the very front again. Timo (Scheider) was always two to four tenths of a second behind the other car. In free practice, we didn’t manage to close the gap. That he dropped to 16th place was a matter of a few thousandths. That was a shame. I’d have been pleased even with tenth place. Now we’ve got to look at how we’re going to distribute the tactics to the two cars.”

Arno Zensen (Team Director Audi Sport Team Rosberg): “That ‘little’ (Nico) Müller is in fifth place here on his first run is very good. Congratulations to ‘Rocky’ on clinching pole. But we could have clinched it too. We were dominant in Q1 and Q2. We still need to find out why we couldn’t put this on track in Q3. But the overall result as a team isn’t bad.”

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The Audi Group delivered approximately 1,575,500 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2013. As one of the most successful models, the Audi A3 has been awarded the title of “World Car of the Year 2014” by an international jury of journalists (combined fuel consumption in l/100 km: 7.1 – 3.2; combined CO₂ emissions in g/km: 165 – 85). In 2013, the company reported revenue of €49.9 billion and an operating profit of €5.03 billion. The company 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 (China) and Jakarta (Indonesia). Since the end of 2013, the brand with the Four Rings has also been producing cars in Foshan (China). In 2015, Audi will start production in São José dos Pinhais (Brazil), followed by 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 Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy), the sports motorcycle manufacturer. The company currently employs approximately 76,000 people worldwide, thereof more than 53,400 in Germany. Total investment of around €22 billion is planned from 2014 to 2018 – 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.