

**Communications Motorsport**

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## **Quotes after the race at Zandvoort**

**Ingolstadt/Zandvoort, September 28, 2014 – Joy in the Audi camp: On the dune circuit at Zandvoort, Mattias Ekström celebrated the first season victory of the Audi RS 5 DTM. Quotes by the drivers and officials after the race.**

**Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich (Head of Audi Motorsport):** “This victory was more than overdue and is good for the whole squad who worked very hard for it. It was a pretty crazy race in which a certain amount of fortune was necessary. But the Audi RS 5 DTM was simply the strongest car at Zandvoort. That was really obvious here.”

**Dieter Gass (Head of DTM):** “Of course we’re very pleased with and relieved about the victory clinched by Mattias (Ekström): a fantastic achievement. After receiving an unjustified penalty yesterday, he gave the right answer on track today. The race with four safety car periods today was certainly spectacular for the spectators. But I cannot condone some of the things that happened on track. I cannot understand, for instance, how it is possible that a driver hits the corner of another driver’s car in a fast turn, the way (Christian) Vietoris hit Nico Müller, and he gets away with it without a penalty.”

**Mattias Ekström (Red Bull Audi RS 5 DTM), 1<sup>st</sup> place**

**Tires: standard/option**

“It’s always nice to win a race, especially if it’s been such a long time ago. We were without a victory for 14 months and this has been the first victory for Audi this year. It’s a special day. We had a bit of fortune today but my car was very fast, too. It was important that I didn’t lose too much time in the beginning on standard tires. Afterwards, the safety cars played into our hands.”

**Edoardo Mortara (Audi Sport Audi RS 5 DTM), 4<sup>th</sup> place**

**Tires: option/standard**

“It was a fantastic race. We had a perfect strategy and a superb pit stop. I overtook a lot of cars after having to start from the last place on the grid following yesterday’s disqualification. This morning, it was difficult to stay motivated. But we didn’t give up and showed that we’re able to make use of our opportunities when they present themselves.”

**Timo Scheider (AUTO TEST Audi RS 5 DTM), 10<sup>th</sup> place**

**Tires: option/standard**

“It was an action-packed race. The first safety car period on option tires cost me some positions. The second one went a bit in my direction. I had a thrilling race and great battles. My car was good on option tires and standard tires. In the end, we still scored a point and achieved our minimum goal that way.”

**Jamie Green (Hoffmann Group Audi RS 5 DTM), 15<sup>th</sup> place**

**Tires: option/standard**

“We were simply unfortunate. We were in second place. Marco Wittmann made an early pit stop and I was able to overtake Martin Tomczyk and Nico Müller, trailing Mike (Rockenfeller). Then the safety car was deployed and that cost a lot of time because we’d started on option tires. Mattias (Ekström) benefited from this. My speed was really good. We just need a little luck and then the results will come.”

**Mike Rockenfeller (Schaeffler Audi RS 5 DTM), 16<sup>th</sup> place**

**Tires: option/standard**

“Except for the start, which wasn’t quite the way I’d been wishing for and my loss of one position, the race was actually very good. After overtaking Wittmann and taking the lead, I was able to control the race well at the front. But then the safety car was deployed – and my race was ruined. It’s extremely frustrating that the regulations are like this.”

**Miguel Molina (Audi Sport Audi RS 5 DTM), 18<sup>th</sup> place**

**Tires: standard/option**

“It was a promising race. We had a good first half and on standard tires were able to maintain a good pace behind the drivers on option tires. I was supposed to wait for the pit stop a lap longer because Mattias (Ekström) had priority. I lost two positions in the process and was subsequently behind Vietoris and Spengler. There we lost a lot of time with battles and there was no way to move forward anymore. Afterwards, (Timo) Glock pushed me off track. Although I managed to get out of the gravel again my race was over.”

**Nico Müller (Audi Financial Services RS 5 DTM), retirement**

**Tires: option/standard**

“The beginning of the race was great. I made a superb start and immediately advanced to third place. Even more would almost have been possible but it wasn’t quite enough. I then took it easy on the tires and followed the pack. Marco Wittmann had tire problems at the front very early. After the first safety car period, everything was still okay with me but after the second one nothing was possible anymore. I had a problem on the car because I picked up some debris. From then on,

everything went in the wrong direction. The accident in the end was just the final touch.”

**Adrien Tambay (Playboy Audi RS 5 DTM), retirement**

**Tires: option**

“Unfortunately, the race was much too short for me. While attempting to attack Paffett I suddenly had less downforce and grip on the front axle. On the grass I then lost control of the car. Sorry for that. Today there was a lot of potential with this car.”

**Hans-Jürgen Abt (Team Director Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline):** “We’re happy to have won the race. That was our aim. The weekend didn’t start perfectly but the whole squad believed in it, did everything right, and selected the right tire strategy. It’s very positive to be at the very top again after such a long barren spell.”

**Ernst Moser (Team Director Audi Sport Team Phoenix):** “It’s a shame to end up in 16<sup>th</sup> place after starting from the top spot. Timo (Scheider) recovered five or six places. That was damage containment. With Mike (Rockenfeller) we had the fastest car in the field. That makes finishing the race so far at the rear a particularly bitter pill. This time, we were lacking fortune. We’re now hoping for Hockenheim and the second Audi victory this year.”

**Arno Zensen (Team Director Audi Sport Team Rosberg):** “Congratulations to Audi, Ekström and Audi Sport Team Abt Sportline. Finally, the first victory after such a long time. For us, it was a shame, as both drivers drove a good race. But with the safety car more wasn’t possible and, in addition, both drivers were turned around on track.”

– End –

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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral mobility.