



Communications Motorsport

Virginia Brusch

Tel: +49 151 52817968

E-mail: virginia.brusch@audi.de

www.audi-mediacycenter.com/en

Rallycross home round for Audi driver Bakkerud

- **Fifth World RX round for EKS Audi Sport at Hell, Norway**
- **Race track near Trondheim birthplace of EKS**

Neuburg a. d. Donau, June 5, 2018 – Five events in only eight weeks: EKS Audi Sport is engaged in a program of truly mammoth proportions right at the beginning of the FIA World Rallycross Championship (World RX). Next weekend, the supercars will be racing at Hell in Norway.

These are exciting times for the World RX that is to become a fully electric racing series starting in 2020: growing numbers of spectators, new festival-like events such as the most recent one at Silverstone and extremely close competition at the top. The teams supported by Audi, Peugeot and Volkswagen after four rounds are within only 23 points of each other in the teams' classification, the top five of the drivers' world championship within only 25 points.

They include the two drivers from EKS Audi Sport for whom Hell will be a very special event. The northernmost World RX round on the calendar is the one on home soil for Andreas Bakkerud. The Norwegian Audi driver has particularly enthusiastic fans that stand out in any paddock of the world in their bright blue T-shirts and with their chants. At their home venue they will turn out in particularly large numbers and frenetically cheer on their hero. "I'm tremendously excited about the event," says Bakkerud who is planning various activities with his fans. "Hell is both my home round and one of my absolutely favorite tracks. Following my podium for EKS Audi Sport at Silverstone, I'm aiming for more – preferably a victory of course."

Bakkerud has clinched one in Norway before. In 2016, he was the first driver in World RX history to achieve a perfect weekend of winning six races and scoring maximum points. Last year, he finished as runner-up at Hell.

Team Principal Mattias Ekström has previously mounted the podium at the roller coaster track near Trondheim as well. In 2016, he took third place. "The track is simply fantastic," says the Swede. "My favorite corner is Turn 2, a downhill left-hander. That's where you feel like the car is getting an extra power boost. The entrance to the Joker Lap is one of the best. There I go into a really great drift at high speed. The spectators have a full view of the track from practically all the seats. Plus, the race at Hell will always be a very special one for me because that's where the EKS story began in 2014."



Between the events at Silverstone and Hell, EKS Audi Sport tested dampers and practiced starts in Sweden in order to optimize the 580-hp Audi S1 EKS RX quattro. “We’re very strong this year,” says Mattias Ekström. “But we need to continue to improve in order to defeat the Peugeot and Volkswagen teams – and that’s our goal.”

The Finals will be shown on Sunday, starting at 2 PM (CEST) on a live stream at www.fiaworldrallycross.com. In Germany, ProSieben Fun will air live coverage.

About Hell RX

Track	Lånkebanen Hell, 30 km northeast of Trondheim
Track length	1.019 km (Joker Lap: 1.110 km)
Surface	63 percent tarmac, 37 percent gravel
Turns	3 left, 6 right
Top speed	approx. 156 km/h
Average	approx. 97 km/h
Longest jump	approx. 16 m
Race duration	4 laps (qualifying), 6 laps (semi-finals and final)
Event hashtag	#HellRX

Schedule (local time, CEST)

Friday, June 8

18.00 Free practice 1

Saturday, June 9

09.30 Free practice 2

11.00 Qualifying 1 (Q1)

14.00 Qualifying 2 (Q2)

Sunday, June 10

08.30 Warm-up

10.00 Qualifying 3 (Q3)

12.00 Qualifying 4 (Q4)

15.00 Semi-finals and final

15.50 Podium ceremony

– End –



The Audi Group, with its brands Audi, Ducati and Lamborghini, is one of the most successful manufacturers of automobiles and motorcycles in the premium segment. It is present in more than 100 markets worldwide and produces at 16 locations in twelve countries. 100 percent subsidiaries of AUDI AG include Audi Sport GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy) and Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy).

In 2017, the Audi Group delivered to customers about 1.878 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 3,815 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and 55,900 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2017 fiscal year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of €60.1 billion and an operating profit of €5.1 billion. At present, approximately 90,000 people work for the company all over the world, more than 60,000 of them in Germany. Audi focuses on sustainable products and technologies for the future of mobility.