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Title defense mission: Audi Sport Italia starts GT season

- **Opening race at Vallelunga on May 2**
- **Three-time Le Mans winner Dindo Capello to contest his last season**
- **Last year's championship runner-up Marco Mapelli returns**

Ingolstadt, April 29, 2015 – The aim is clear: Audi Sport Italia is determined to defend its title in the Italian GT Championship. The new season is starting on May 2, and Emilio Radaelli is putting two Audi R8 LMS ultra cars on the grid. The team's drivers include the three-time Le Mans winner Dindo Capello who will be retiring from motorsport this year.

The Italian racing series numbers among the world's most fiercely competitive national GT3 series. In the opening round at Vallelunga, the sports cars from eight manufacturers will be pitted against each other. Audi Sport Italia has been contesting the championship since 2009 and is bringing the experience from three victories in the teams' classification, a drivers' title and 19 single victories to the grid. Last year, the squad won the teams' classification with a 37-point advantage.

For the title defense mission, Audi Sport Italia again relies on a driver mix of youth and experience. 51-year-old Dindo Capello, who has won the Le Mans 24 Hours three times, will be racing together with three young talents. Capello is sharing the cockpit of the Audi R8 LMS ultra with Emanuele Zonzini (21) from San Marino. The sister car will be driven by the two Italians Marco Mapelli (27) and Andrea Amici (21). Mapelli missed winning the champion's title last year with Audi Sport Italia by just three points. Andrea Amici won the Lamborghini Super Trofeo in 2013 and is making his debut in a car of Audi Sport Italia this year.

"The large number of local talents on the grid in the 2015 season has not been since the Super Touring Car era in the nineteen-nineties," says team boss Emilio Radaelli. "It'll be a challenging championship for sure. Ever since we started our GT3 program we've been battling for the title and are again going to give our all through to the last lap in the last race."



Radaelli is expecting a thrilling racing season – plus an emotional one, with Dindo Capello having announced that this is going to be his last full season as a driver: “When I entered the GT3 program in 2009 with my good friend and former mentor Emilio Radaelli, I was a professional driver for Audi Sport and a part-time Audi dealer. Now I’m a full-time Audi dealer and have decided that 2015 will be my last full year of racing. So, it’s going to be a very special season and a great tour of saying goodbye to my fans.”

„Audi Sport Italia has existed since the nineteen-eighties,” says Romolo Liebchen, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. “Emilio Radaelli and his team have always represented the brand south of the Alps with a passion and excellent results – be it in rally racing, the Super Touring Cars or, since 2009, in GT3 racing. We’re convinced that Audi Sport Italia is going to battle for the title again. We wish Emilio and his drivers a good season and a lot of success.”

The Audi customer teams in the 2015 Italian GT Championship

Audi R8 LMS ultra (Audi Sport Italia)
Dindo Capello/Emanuele Zonzini (I/RSM)

Audi R8 LMS ultra (Audi Sport Italia)
Andrea Amici/Marco Mapelli (I/I)

Calendar

01-03/05	Vallelunga (I)
29-31/05	Monza (I)
26-28/06	Imola (I)
10-12/07	Mugello (I)
11-13/09	Vallelunga (I)
25-27/09	Misano (I)
16-18/10	Mugello (I)

– End –

In 2014, the Audi Group delivered approximately 1,741,100 cars of the Audi brand to its customers. The company achieved revenue of €53.8 billion and an operating profit of €5.15 billion in 2014. Audi 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 and Foshan (China) as well as Jakarta (Indonesia). The brand with the Four Rings will start producing cars in Curitiba (Brazil) this year and in 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 sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy). The company currently employs approximately 80,000 people worldwide, thereof around 58,000 in Germany. Total investment of about €24 billion is planned from 2015 to 2019 – 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.