



## Communications Motorsport

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## Tom Kristensen leads Audi to fourfold victory

- **Audi dominates 100<sup>th</sup> race of the new DTM**
- **Places one to four at Hockenheim season opener**
- **Mattias Ekström loses victory on penultimate lap**

**Ingolstadt/Hockenheim – Audi managed a perfect start to the 2009 DTM season at the 100<sup>th</sup> race of the new DTM: Tom Kristensen (Denmark), Timo Scheider (Germany), Oliver Jarvis (Great Britain) and Markus Winkelhock (Germany) clinched a fourfold victory of the Audi A4 DTM and delivered the best start to a season in AUDI AG's DTM history at the Hockenheimring in front of 91,000 spectators.**

It could have even been a fivefold victory for the brand with the four rings but a puncture on the penultimate lap cost Mattias Ekström (Sweden) the win that already seemed sure. The two-time DTM Champion had been dominating the race after starting from the pole position and achieved a lead of more than ten seconds when debris on the track slit the rear left-hand tire of his Audi A4 DTM. Ekström had to come in for an unscheduled pit stop on the penultimate lap and dropped to seventh place.

For Audi, the win marked the 49<sup>th</sup> triumph at a DTM race, for Tom Kristensen the fourth after Oschersleben in 2004 and 2006 as well as Zandvoort in 2006. "Of course, Mattias (Ekström) would have clearly deserved this victory," said the 41-year-old Dane. "But I know only too well how Mattias feels now: In 2006, at Brands Hatch, I also lost a race I'd been leading with a dominant advantage almost up to the finish. But the crucial thing is that, today, only Audi drivers are on the podium. My thanks go to Audi, my team, my engineer and my boys – both pitstops were perfect."



Kristensen, who had announced on Friday that he would end his DTM career after the 2009 season, fought a duel with his team colleague from Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline, Timo Scheider, over the entire race distance. But the Le Mans record winner made no mistakes and did not offer the title defender any chance to pass him.

Oliver Jarvis was the driver primarily benefiting from Mattias Ekström's puncture: The 25-year-old Briton in a year-old A4 of Audi Sport Team Phoenix finished third and thus clinched the first podium result of his DTM career. Markus Winkelhock (Audi Sport Team Rosberg) completed Audi's exploit with a fourth-place finish and thus achieved his best DTM result as well.

"That was an incredibly strong team performance we showed this weekend," Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich summed up the positive result of the round. "As in the two previous years, the Audi A4 DTM was again the superior car here at Hockenheim. And Oliver (Jarvis) clinched a podium finish in last year's A4. It was a fantastic race for Audi. It's just a shame that Mattias (Ekström), who dominated the race, suffered such a really unfortunate mishap."

For Ekström's team-mate Martin Tomczyk, the season opener was marked by misfortune as well: The German dropped from third to 16<sup>th</sup> place at the start but had already recovered to a place within the points when an electronic defect forced him to retire. For Alexandre Prémat and Mike Rockenfeller, the first race was just a short one: Both were entangled in a collision caused by Mercedes driver Gary Paffett on the opening lap and had to retire.

Due to a collision with Ralf Schumacher, a drive-through penalty was imposed on Katherine Legge. The Briton subsequently recovered, passed her rival Susie Stoddart, and finished the race in twelfth place.

The private team Kolles, which finished the race with its three 2007-spec Audi A4 DTM cars in eleventh, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> place, showed a favorable performance.



The next DTM race will be held just 14 days from now at the EuroSpeedway Lausitz. In the meantime, Teams ABT Sportsline and Phoenix Racing will contest the 24-hour race at the Nürburgring with a total of four Audi R8 LMS cars. With Mattias Ekström, Mike Rockenfeller and Timo Scheider at the wheel, three DTM drivers will also start from the grid there.

- Ends -

**Photographs and information available at [www.audi-motorsport.info](http://www.audi-motorsport.info)**

AUDI AG sold a total of 1,003,469 cars in 2008 and thus achieved its 13th consecutive record year. The Company posted new record figures with revenue of €34.2 billion and profit before tax of €3.2 billion. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). Aurangabad in India saw the start of CKD production of the Audi A6 at the end of 2007 and of the Audi A4 in early October 2008. The Company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG's wholly owned subsidiaries include Automobili Lamborghini Holding S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese (Italy) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi currently employs around 58,000 people worldwide, including 46,500 in Germany. The brand with the four rings invests around €2 billion each year in order to sustain the company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" slogan. Audi plans to significantly increase the number of models in its portfolio by 2015 to 42. The AUDI brand celebrates its 100th birthday in 2009. The company was founded by August Horch in Zwickau on July 16, 1909; he named it AUDI after the Latin translation of his surname ("hark!").

