

Communications Motorsport

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Tomczyk shines again in year-old Audi

- From position ten to three in the rain in Nuremberg
- Early race stop deprives Audi of chance for victory
- Four Audi A4 DTM cars score points at “home round”

Ingolstadt/Nuremberg, July 3, 2011 – The dream of achieving victory at its “home round” on the Norisring did not come true for Audi this year either. Still, the squad around Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich had good reasons to be happy with its performance at the fifth round of the 2011 DTM season and another podium result for Martin Tomczyk (Audi Sport Team Phoenix).

Audi again came very close to clinching the long awaited victory at the Norisring. But this time the weather thwarted the plans of the brand with the four rings. After the race had already been started behind the safety car due to heavy rain it was stopped early after 64 of 82 laps because there was too much water on the track.

“This was a safety decision that was absolutely okay,” said Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich after the rain battle in Nuremberg. “But we would have liked to have moved a bit farther to the front. And that would have been possible too as our cars were very quick in the rain.”

In the first half of the race Mattias Ekström in particular made the many Audi fans around the 2.3-kilometer city street circuit dream of an Audi victory. After the safety car had left the track the Swede from Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline put pressure on the three leading Mercedes. When the rain became heavier and heavier toward the race’s midpoint Ekström in a thrilling duel with Jamie Green temporarily even took the lead in front of a cheering crowd of fans.

However, problems with radio communications and a set of tires that was not working optimally caused Ekström to lose a lot of ground in the crucial phase between lap 47 and lap 58. When the safety car was deployed again when the conditions increasingly deteriorated the Swede was only in seventh place any more. Ekström remained on this position as the race was stopped by red flags behind the



safety car when 75 percent of the distance had been completed and was not restarted.

Whereas Mattias Ekström was deeply disappointed with the outcome Martin Tomczyk had reason to cheer. The Bavarian who lives in Switzerland pushed forward to third place after having started from position ten on the grid, which made him the best Audi driver for the third time in a row. Halfway through the season Tomczyk is the runner-up in the standings, ranking just three points behind Bruno Spengler.

“My A4 was already brilliant to drive in the rain during warm-up this morning,” said Tomczyk. “It was a reasonable decision to stop the race. But had the race not been stopped I might have even been able to attack the front runners toward the end.”

This applied as well to Timo Scheider (Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline) and Edoardo Mortara (Audi Sport Team Rosberg) both of whose speed was similar to Tomczyk’s and who were running on positions four and five when the race was stopped. Scheider, who like some other drivers, made his two mandatory pit stops in short succession, consolidated his third place in the standings. Edoardo Mortara achieved the best result in his still young DTM career.

In total, four Audi drivers scored points in front of 124,000 spectators (throughout the weekend). They did not include Miguel Molina, Mike Rockenfeller, Oliver Jarvis, Filipe Albuquerque and Rahel Frey on positions twelve, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

In just two weeks from now the DTM will visit Bavaria again: At the Munich Olympic Stadium the show race will be held on July 16/17.

The Audi Group sold around 1,092,400 cars of the Audi brand in 2010. The Company posted revenue of €35.4 billion and an operating profit of €3.3 billion in 2010. 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, of the Audi A4 in early October 2008 and of the Audi Q5 in July 2010. Production of the new Audi A1 has been running at the Brussels plant since May 2010. The Company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG’s wholly owned subsidiaries include AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft., Automobili Lamborghini Holding S.p.A. in Sant’Agata Bolognese (Italy) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi currently employs around 60,000 people worldwide, including around 46,600 in Germany. Between 2011 and 2015 the brand with the four rings is planning to invest around €11 billion, mainly in new products, in order to sustain the Company’s technological lead embodied in its “Vorsprung durch Technik” slogan. By 2015, Audi plans to increase the number of models in its portfolio to 42.

Audi has long been fulfilling its social responsibility on many levels – with the aim of making the future worth living for generations to come. The basis for Audi’s lasting success is therefore formed by environmental protection, the conservation of resources, international competitiveness and a forward-looking human resources policy. One example of AUDI AG’s commitment to environmental issues is the newly established Audi Environmental Foundation.