



Communications Motorsport

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55th pole position for Audi in the DTM

- **Mattias Ekström on position one at Valencia**
- **Belated birthday gift for his mother**
- **Eight Audi A4 DTM cars on the top eleven grid positions**

Ingolstadt/Valencia, May 22, 2010 – In blazing heat it was a Swede who was best at keeping his cool: Mattias Ekström clinched the 55th pole position for Audi in the DTM at Valencia (Spain). His British team colleague Oliver Jarvis completed Audi's exploit by taking position three. A total of eight Audi A4 DTM cars will start from the top eleven positions at the DTM's debut at Valencia on Sunday.

At 28 degrees centigrade in the shade and constantly increasing tarmac temperatures, which were above 50 degrees at the end of qualifying, the 2004 and 2007 champion was 16 thousandths of a second quicker than Bruno Spengler in the best Mercedes on the crucial lap. My Audi works really well, I'm feeling very comfortable," raved the Swede. "The track kept getting warmer and there was less and less grip. In Q3 I was standing crosswise in the fast first turn and was pretty shocked. In Q4 I wasn't sure if I'd make it. That makes it even nicer to be in front now."

For the Swede this was the 15th pole position in his DTM career – and a belated birthday gift for his mother Agneta who turned 60 on Thursday and had the chance to do three laps with her son as a passenger in the Audi A4 DTM on Friday evening. "This makes the pole even sweeter," said Ekström. "And maybe tomorrow things will even be better..."

With Oliver Jarvis on position three and Mike Rockenfeller, Miguel Molina, Alexandre Prémat, Martin Tomczyk, Timo Scheider and Markus Winkelhock as a solid Audi block on grid positions six to eleven, Audi managed to achieve a strong qualifying result overall. "We can be very pleased," said Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. "We've got seven cars on the first five rows of the grid and Mattias (Ekström) on the pole position. Of course performance in the race is an altogether different subject but I think that we're in a pretty good position. We collected a wealth of



data during the past few weeks to get a handle on the tire problems – also with assistance from our colleagues in Technical Development, our Quality Inspection department and two universities. Our aim is to convert the qualifying result into a good race result.”

Spain seems to be good territory for Audi in the DTM on the whole: the most popular international touring car racing series is visiting Spain for the fifth time – and for as much as the fourth time an Audi A4 DTM will start from the pole position here.

Miguel Molina is the first ever Spaniard to contest the DTM. And at his home round the 21-year-old shone with grid position seven as the second-best driver of a 2008-spec vehicle with a small gap behind his brand colleague Mike Rockenfeller. “I can be very pleased with position seven in my second DTM qualifying,” said Molina. “By signing him, we’ve brought a great talent into the DTM,” enthused Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich too. “I’m hoping that he’ll be able to continue putting his talent onto the track.”

Audi’s good qualifying result is particularly important because overtaking on the 4.005-kilometer track on the outskirts of Valencia is considered to be very difficult. For the day of the race, as well, similarly high temperatures have been predicted. Audi completed several long runs in the free practice sessions on Friday and Saturday with various suspension set-ups and tire inflation pressures and gathered important data about the performance of the identical tires prescribed by the organizer.

The Audi Group sold around 950,000 cars of the Audi brand in 2009. The Company posted revenue of €29.8 billion and an operating profit of €1.6 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. 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 58,000 people worldwide, including 45,500 in Germany. Between 2010 and 2012 the Audi Group is planning to invest around €5.5 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.