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## **Audi at the Norisring: project home victory**

- **Nuremberg city street race marks pinnacle of the DTM season**
- **Aim is to clinch first victory at the Norisring since 2002**
- **Audi Sport's "home race" has seen three Audi successes so far**

**Ingolstadt/Nuremberg, June 22, 2012 – For the fans, the Norisring race is the absolute highlight on the DTM's race calendar. For Audi, it is a home round. But in Nuremberg of all places the brand with the four rings has had to wait for a triumph for ten years – in 2002, it was successful with the compact TT.**

In 1990 and 1991, the V8 quattro was victorious at the Norisring and in 2002 it was the ABT-Audi TT-R. Yet with the A4 DTM, the situation seems to have been jinxed. From 2004 to 2011, it won five out of eight possible champion's titles and 34 DTM races. Not at the Norisring, though. Pole positions, leading laps, fastest laps, second places, third places – only victory was denied to the A4 DTM on the short, 2.3-kilometer city street circuit between the Dutzendteich lake and the easyCredit Stadium. In 2010, merely 0.591 seconds were lacking.

Now the A4 DTM is in a museum and its successor, the A5 DTM, just won its first DTM race at Spielberg at the beginning of June. Since then, "project home victory" has been running at full stretch at Audi Sport in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm. The squad headed by Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich has been intensively using the brief break between Spielberg and the Norisring to continue to optimize the A5 DTM. Computer analyses, tests at the Lausitzring, a special Norisring simulation: Audi Sport and the three Audi Sport teams, Abt Sportsline, Phoenix and Rosberg, have been meticulously preparing for the season's pinnacle.

Yet it remains a journey into the unknown, as the Norisring is the only city street circuit on the DTM's race calendar. The track changes from year to year, with a new bump in the surface here or a new piece of tarmac there. Opportunities for prior testing are not available so that the effects always manifest themselves only in the first free practice session at any of the events. Plus, the Norisring races are typically



decided by thousandths of a second, which means that the driver's form on race day is another crucial factor.

Mattias Ekström is traveling as the runner-up in the standings to Nuremberg where he has always been among the protagonists. Timo Scheider only missed the long-awaited victory in 2010 by a very narrow margin. Spielberg winner Edoardo Mortara won at the Norisring in Formula 3 and Mike Rockenfeller in the Porsche Carrera Cup. All other Audi racers rave about the track as well which, according to Rahel Frey, "looks super easy but is super difficult."

Clearly, the battle of the premium manufacturers, Audi, BMW and Mercedes-Benz, that already thrilled the fans at the first four races of the year, will see a new highlight at the Norisring – in front of more than 100,000 fans.

Those who miss the chance of buying any of the coveted Norisring tickets will be treated to a seat in the front row on ARD, as "Das Erste" will be broadcasting the qualifying session (Saturday, starting at 15:00 – local time) and the race (Sunday, starting at 13:15 – local time) live as usual. Tuning into the DTM race at "Germany's Monaco" will no doubt be worth everyone's – not only Audi fans' – while.

### **Quotes by the officials**

**Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich (Head of Audi Motorsport):** "After my personal home race at Spielberg, the home round for AUDI AG and particularly for the Ingolstadt plant is now coming up. We're all hoping to be successful at the Norisring this year. At Spielberg, we developed the cars by another step. At the Norisring, we want to show a good team performance as well. Victory is our big aim."

**Hans-Jürgen Abt (Team Director Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline):** "We're particularly looking forward to the Norisring, as this is the home race not only for Audi but also for our company. It would be nice to finally clinch another victory there. We last managed to do so in 2002 with our Abt-Audi TT-R."

**Ernst Moser (Team Director Audi Sport Team Phoenix):** "Like every year, we're looking forward to the 'German Monaco.' We've still got some unfinished business there too. It's time for Audi to finally mount the very top of the podium there again. It's Audi's home track and we'll be seeing a very large turnout of Audi fans – our job is to not disappoint them."



**Arno Zensen (Team Director Audi Sport Team Rosberg):** “After the victory at Spielberg, we’re extremely motivated. Last year, we were running well in the rain. The Norisring is always special – a fantastic city circuit that we’re tremendously looking forward to.”

#### **Facts and quotes by the Audi drivers**

##### **Filipe Albuquerque (27/P), TV Movie Audi A5 DTM #22 (Audi Sport Team Rosberg)**

- Celebrated his 27th birthday between Spielberg and the Norisring
  - Is one of only four drivers to have scored points at all races in 2012 so far
- “The Norisring is a unique track that always sees tough races with surprises. Due to the bumps and walls experience is particularly beneficial there. For me, it was really rough last year. But this year, I’m returning with more self-confidence and will at least knock one mirror off in the race – because that’s what happens when you give everything at the Norisring.”

##### **Mattias Ekström (33/S), Red Bull Audi A5 DTM #3 (Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline)**

- In 2002, won the qualification race at the Norisring
  - Was on the Norisring podium as many as five times, most recently in 2010
- “The Norisring is the highlight of the year for me. I’ve often tried to win there. In many cases, I came close but didn’t make it yet. This year, I’m going to give everything for it again. I’ll be taking every risk for victory. After a short vacation I’m traveling to Nuremberg with freshly charged batteries.”

##### **Rahel Frey (26/CH), E-POSTBRIEF Audi A5 DTM #17 (Audi Sport Team Abt)**

- Is doing an increasingly better job of handling the Audi A5 DTM
  - Qualified in front of ex-Formula 1 driver David Coulthard at Spielberg
- “My experiences at the Norisring last year weren’t very positive. The track looks super easy but is super difficult. I was struggling last year – especially in the rain. But I’ve continued to learn and look forward to the 2012 Norisring challenge.”

##### **Miguel Molina (23/E), Red Bull Audi A5 DTM #10 (Audi Sport Team Phoenix)**

- Is competing in a DTM car at the Norisring for the third time
  - Has already scored points twice this year
- “The Norisring is a very special race track for the DTM and a special weekend. I remember my first lap there very well. I simply like the track and the atmosphere. We used the break after Spielberg to get some rest but also to continue to work hard. I’m hoping for a good weekend and a good race.”



**Edoardo Mortara (25/I/F), Playboy Audi A5 DTM #21 (Audi Sport Team Rosberg)**

- Is regarded as a specialist for city street races
- Celebrated his first DTM victory at Spielberg

“I’m already very excited to see how we’ll be doing at the Norisring. After the brilliant victory at Spielberg, I’m confident that we’ll be looking good there as well. I love city street circuits and won in Nuremberg twice in Formula 3. Now I want to achieve a good result in the DTM there as well.”

**Mike Rockenfeller (28/D), Schaeffler Audi A5 DTM #9 (Audi Sport Team Phoenix)**

- Between Spielberg and the Norisring contested the Le Mans 24 Hours which he finished in the Audi R18 ultra on position three
- In 2012 has been the quickest Audi driver in qualifying twice

“I won the Porsche Carrera Cup in Nuremberg, so I know how to win there. Unfortunately, in terms of results, the track has not been so positive for me in the DTM so far. Still, I’m tremendously looking forward to it. With the A5 DTM, the Norisring will be really special. I’m hoping to be among those running at the very front of the field.”

**Timo Scheider (33/D), AUTO TEST Audi A5 DTM #4 (Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline)**

- Clinched the pole position for Audi at the Norisring in 2009
- Most recently shone with an impressive recovery at Spielberg

“The Norisring will be a big challenge for all of us again. It’s the home race for Audi that we’d finally like to win. A few years ago, I already took the pole position and had many leading laps. After ‘Edo’s’ (Mortara) victory at Spielberg and my good race performance we started our small break with a good feeling. We’re hoping to get everything together and to be at the very top of the podium then.”

**Adrien Tambay (F/21), Audi ultra A5 DTM #18 (Audi Sport Team Abt)**

- Will be contesting his fifth DTM race at Nuremberg
- Knows the Norisring from Formula 3

“I’m particularly looking forward to the Norisring in my first DTM year. I like this track and had my best qualifying result there in Formula 3. After the disappointing race at Spielberg, I’m hoping for a good weekend. We saw there that Audi can win. That gave everyone a boost – including me.”



## The Audi drivers in the 2012 DTM

**Filipe Albuquerque (P):** \* Jun 13, 1985 in Coimbra (P); residence: Coimbra (P); single; height: 1.74 m; weight: 64 kg; Audi driver since 2011; DTM races: 14; pole positions: 0; victories: 0 (best result: 2nd place); fastest laps: 0; points: 17; DTM titles: 0; best result, DTM Norisring: 16

**Mattias Ekström (S):** \* Jul 14, 1978 in Falun (S); residence: Salenstein (CH); single (partner Heidi), one son (Mats); height: 1.83 m; weight: 77 kg; Audi driver since 1999; DTM races: 118; pole positions: 19; victories: 17; fastest laps: 12; points: 581; DTM titles: 2 (2004, 2007); best result, DTM Norisring: 2

**Rahel Frey (CH):** \* Feb 23, 1986 in Niederbipp (CH); residence: Aedermannsdorf (CH); single; height: 1.63 m; weight: 50 kg; Audi driver since 2011; DTM races: 14; pole positions: 0; victories: 0 (best result: 12th place); fastest laps: 0; points: 0; DTM titles: 0; best result, DTM Norisring: 17

**Miguel Molina (E):** \* Feb 17, 1989 in Girona (E); residence: Lloret de Mar (E); single; height: 1.75 m; weight: 62 kg; Audi driver since 2010; DTM races: 25; pole positions: 2; victories: 0 (best result: 3rd place); fastest laps: 1; points: 34; DTM titles: 0; best result, DTM Norisring: 12

**Edoardo Mortara (I/F):** \* Jan 12, 1987 in Geneva (CH); residence: Geneva (CH); single; height: 1.82 m; weight: 75 kg; Audi driver since 2011; DTM races: 14; pole positions: 1; victories: 1; fastest laps: 0; points: 52; DTM titles: 0; best result, DTM Norisring: 5

**Mike Rockenfeller (D):** \* Oct 31, 1983 in Neuwied (D); residence: Altnau (CH); single (partner Susanne); height: 1.75 m; weight: 67 kg; Audi driver since 2007; DTM races: 55; pole positions: 1; victories: 1; fastest laps: 2; points: 105; DTM titles: 0; best result, DTM Norisring: 9

**Timo Scheider (D):** \* Nov 10, 1978 in Lahnstein (D); residence: Lochau (A); single (partner Jessica), one son (Loris); height: 1.78 m; weight: 74 kg; Audi driver since 2006; DTM races: 123; pole positions: 9; victories: 6; fastest laps: 9; points: 370; DTM titles: 2 (2008, 2009); best result, DTM Norisring: 3

**Adrien Tambay (F):** \* Feb 25, 1991 in Paris (F); residence: Aix-en-Provence (F); single; height: 1.81 m; weight: 69 kg; Audi driver since 2012; DTM races: 4; pole



positions: 0; victories: 0; (best result: 12th place); fastest laps: 0; points: 0; DTM titles: 0; best result, DTM Norisring: –

**DTM drivers' standings after 4 of 10 rounds**

1 Gary Paffett (Mercedes-Benz)	83 points
<b>2 Mattias Ekström (Audi)</b>	<b>47 points</b>
3 Jamie Green (Mercedes-Benz)	44 points
4 Bruno Spengler (BMW)	43 points
5 Martin Tomczyk (BMW)	36 points
<b>6 Edoardo Mortara (Audi)</b>	<b>31 points</b>
<b>7 Mike Rockenfeller (Audi)</b>	<b>31 points</b>
8 Christian Vietoris (Mercedes-Benz)	20 points
9 August Farfus (BMW)	16 points
<b>10 Timo Scheider (Audi)</b>	<b>16 points</b>
11 Andy Priaulx (BMW)	8 points
<b>12 Miguel Molina (Audi)</b>	<b>8 points</b>
<b>13 Filipe Albuquerque (Audi)</b>	<b>8 points</b>
14 Ralf Schumacher (Mercedes-Benz)	7 points
15 David Coulthard (Mercedes-Benz)	4 points
16 Joey Hand (BMW)	2 points

**DTM manufacturers' standings**

1 Mercedes-Benz	158 points
<b>2 Audi</b>	<b>141 points</b>
3 BMW	105 points

**DTM teams standings**

1 THOMAS SABO/Mercedes-Benz Bank AMG	103 points
<b>2 Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline</b>	<b>63 points</b>
3 Mercedes AMG	51 points
4 BMW Team Schnitzer	43 points
<b>5 Audi Sport Team Rosberg</b>	<b>39 points</b>
<b>6 Audi Sport Team Phoenix</b>	<b>39 points</b>
7 BMW Team RMG	38 points
8 BMW Team RBM	24 points
9 DHL Paket/stern Mercedes AMG	4 points



### **Audi DTM statistics**

Champion's titles: 8 (in 15 years)  
Victories: 62 (in 198 races)  
Pole positions: 66 (in 163 qualifying sessions)  
Fastest laps: 54 (in 198 races)

### **All Norisring winners since 2004**

2004 Gary Paffett (Mercedes-Benz)  
2005 Gary Paffett (Mercedes-Benz)  
2006 Bruno Spengler (Mercedes-Benz)  
2007 Bruno Spengler (Mercedes-Benz)  
2008 Jamie Green (Mercedes-Benz)  
2009 Jamie Green (Mercedes-Benz)  
2010 Jamie Green (Mercedes-Benz),  
2011 Bruno Spengler (Mercedes-Benz)

### **2011 flashback: early end**

In 2011, Audi again came very close to clinching the long awaited victory at the Norisring. Yet this time, the weather thwarted the plans of the brand with the four rings. After the race had been started behind the safety car due to heavy rain it was stopped early after 64 of 82 laps, as there was too much water on the track. In the first half of the race, Mattias Ekström in particular gave the large crowd of Audi fans lining the 2.3-kilometer city street circuit reasons to dream of an Audi victory. Problems with radio communications and a second set of tires that was working less than perfectly then caused Ekström to lose a lot of ground in the crucial phase of the race. When conditions kept deteriorating and the safety car was deployed again the Swede was only running in seventh place. Martin Tomczyk recovered from position ten on the grid to three in the race and was thus the best Audi driver for the third consecutive time.

### **Track info**

Track length: 2.300 km  
Race distance: 83 laps = 190.900 km  
DTM track record in qualifying: Bruno Spengler (Mercedes-Benz), June 28, 2008,  
47.785s (173.276 km/h)



DTM track record in the race: Bruno Spengler (Mercedes-Benz), June 29, 2008,  
48.446s (170.912 km/h)

Pole position 2011: Bruno Spengler (Mercedes-Benz), 48.222s (171.706 km/h)

Fastest lap in 2011: Jamie Green (Mercedes-Benz), 54.588s (151.682 km/h)

Turnout 2011: 124.000

TV live rating 2011: 1.47 million / 10.1 % market share (source: ARD)

**Filipe Albuquerque about the Norisring:** “The only city street circuit on the DTM calendar is really special. The atmosphere is unique. The stands are always full and there’s a large crowd in the paddock. For us drivers, though, the Norisring is harder than it looks. As an outsider you may think: only three turns – that can’t be so difficult. As the track is very bumpy you’ve got to exactly know the braking points. The surface is special; there are some passages with a kind of concrete coat which becomes very slippery in rain. In turns 2 and 3, you’ve got to drive very close to the wall so that even the mirrors are often damaged. Plus you need to make use of every millimeter of the track. Overtaking is very difficult; if at all, the best opportunities exist when braking into turn 1, plus in the last corner.”

## Timetable

### Friday, June 29

09:45–10:15	Roll-out
10:15–10:20	Starting practice
13:20–15:10	Free practice 1
15:10–15:15	Starting practice

### Saturday, June 30

09:35–11:25	Free practice 2
15:10–16:20	Qualifying

### Sunday, July 1

09:55–10:25	Warm-up
13:30	Race

## TV schedule (“Das Erste” live)

### Saturday, June 30

15:00–16:30	Qualifying
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**Sunday, June 30**

13:15–15:00

Race

– End –

The Audi Group delivered 1,302,659 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2011. In 2011 the Company posted revenue of €44.1 billion and an operating profit of €5.3 billion. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). The Audi Q7 is built in Bratislava (Slovakia). In July 2010, CKD production of the Audi Q5 was added to the existing Audi A4 and A6 manufacturing operations in Aurangabad (India). At the Brussels plant, production of the Audi A1 has been running since 2010, while production of the new A1 Sportback began in 2012. The Audi Q3 has been built in Martorell (Spain) since June 2011. The Company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG's wholly owned subsidiaries include AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft., Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese (Italy), AUDI BRUSSELS S.A./N.V. in Brussels (Belgium) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Subject to a positive decision by the responsible competition authorities, the Italian sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. will also belong to the Audi Group. Audi currently employs around 65,000 people worldwide, including around 48,000 in Germany. Between 2012 and 2016 the brand with the four rings is planning to invest a total of €13 billion – mainly in new products and the extension of production capacities – in order to sustain the Company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" slogan. Audi is currently expanding its site in Győr (Hungary) and will start production in Foshan (China) in late 2013 and in Mexico in 2016.

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 Audi Environmental Foundation. Within the context of "Vorsprung durch Technik," which extends far beyond its products, the Company is directing its activities toward a major goal – comprehensive CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral mobility.