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Audi customers at Nürburgring on grid positions one and three

- **Frank Stippler posts best time in Audi R8 LMS ultra of Phoenix Racing**
- **Christian Mamerow for Prosperia C. Abt Team Mamerow on second row**
- **Three Audi R8 LMS ultra cars in top five**

Ingolstadt/Nürburg, May 18, 2013 – The quickest Audi customers have completed their preparations for the 24-hour race at the Nürburgring with a very good qualifying result on the first three rows of the grid. The team of Ernst Moser is particularly happy: In the Eifel, the squad with the Audi R8 LMS ultra of Frank Stippler is at the very front, whereas Mike Rockenfeller in the Schaeffler Audi RS 5 DTM starts from the top spot of the grid at Brands Hatch in the DTM.

Frank Stippler started the Nürburgring 24 Hours in 2013 where he finished the past race: in first place. In the final qualifying session, last year's winner achieved the best time in the single timed laps of the top 40 teams. The local hero from Bad Münstereifel in the Audi R8 LMS ultra #4 of Phoenix Racing posted a time of 8m 17.212s.

The second-best Audi customer team in the Eifel was Prosperia C. Abt Team Mamerow. Christian Mamerow completed the lap around the circuit as the third-fastest driver in 8m 19.073s. On his second outing, the race driver from Waltrop was no longer able to improve his time when he was slowed by a car in front.

Team G-Drive Racing by Phoenix provided the third-best Audi in the field. Le Mans winner Marcel Fässler completed the lap around the Nordschleife including the Grand Prix circuit in 8m 20.320s. Another R8 team – the Belgian Audi Club Team WRT – qualified for one of the top ten grid positions. The Swede Edward Sandström drove the tenth-best time of 8m 22.055s. The other Audi customer teams achieved positions 18 (G-Drive Racing by Phoenix #3), 24 (Audi race experience #14), 27 (Audi R8 LMS ultra #16) and 29 (Audi race experience #15). The race will start on Sunday at 17:00.



Selected quotes

Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich (Head of Audi Motorsport): “It’s nice to see that Audi’s customer sport concept that has been put into practice this year is working out well at the Nürburgring. With the support from Audi Sport customer racing, the teams have prepared in a way that put four Audi R8 LMS ultra cars on the first five rows of the grid. My congratulations go to Frank Stippler and his team Phoenix who achieved the best time.”

Romolo Liebchen (Head of Audi Sport customer racing): “Our customers were running superbly. They continued what we started with a factory-backed commitment. That makes us proud because it shows that our product is competitive in the customer’s hands as well. Qualifying, however, was just an initial, small step into the race and therefore shouldn’t be overestimated.”

Frank Stippler (Audi R8 LMS ultra #4/Phoenix Racing): “Catching a clear lap on the Nordschleife is really something special. With my 38 years, I’ve never experienced this on this track before – neither in racing nor in tourist driving. It was a great qualifying session and I’m pleased to accept this position but it’s nearly meaningless for a 24-hour race.”

Qualifying results

- 1 Frank Stippler (Audi R8 LMS ultra #4) 8m 17.212s
- 2 Pedro Lamy (Aston Martin #7) 8m 18.362s
- 3 Christian Mamerow (Audi R8 LMS ultra #2) 8m 19.073s
- 4 Richard Lietz (Porsche #50) 8m 19.838s
- 5 Marcel Fässler (Audi R8 LMS ultra #1) 8m 20.025s
- 6 Sean Edwards (Mercedes #9) 8m 20.320s
- 7 Maxime Martin (BMW #25) 8m 21.007s
- 8 Jens Klingmann (BMW #20) 8m 21.036s
- 9 Andreas Simonsen (Mercedes #10) 8m 21.373s
- 10 Edward Sandström (Audi R8 LMS ultra #29) 8m 22.055s
- 18 Frank Biela (Audi R8 LMS ultra #3) 8m 23.975s
- 24 Marco Werner (Audi R8 LMS ultra #14) 8m 27.257s
- 27 Dennis Busch (Audi R8 LMS ultra #16) 8m 31.788s
- 29 Alexander Yoong (Audi R8 LMS ultra #15) 8m 35.327s

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The Audi Group delivered 1,455,123 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2012. In 2012, the company posted revenue of €48.8 billion and an operating profit of €5.4 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 November 2012, CKD production of the Audi Q7 was added to the existing Audi A4, A6 and Q5 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. (Győr, Hungary), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy), AUDI BRUSSELS S.A./N.V. (Brussels, Belgium), quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm and the sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy). Audi currently employs more than 70,000 people worldwide, including around 50,000 in Germany. The brand with the four rings plans to invest a total of €11 billion by 2015 – mainly in new products and the expansion of production capacities – in order to sustain the Company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" claim. Audi is currently expanding its site in Győr (Hungary) and will start production in Foshan (China) in late 2013 and in San José Chiapa (Mexico) in 2016.

Audi lives up to its corporate responsibility and regards sustainability not only as a basis for financial success, but also as essential to ensure a worthwhile future for the generations to come. The company has therefore strategically established sustainability as a principle for its products and processes. Corporate responsibility includes fuel-efficient products, resource-efficient production processes, a future-oriented and fair personnel policy, effective involvement in society and responsible business operations in general. This gives the motto of "Vorsprung durch Technik" a new dimension that extends far beyond the products. The ultimate goal is CO₂-neutral mobility.