



**Communications Motorsport**

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## **Audi in grid positions three and four at Austin**

- **Lucas di Grassi/Loïc Duval/Oliver Jarvis in fastest Audi**
- **Leaders of the standings to start race from position four**
- **Texas heat will pose great challenge to drivers in the race**

**Ingolstadt/Austin, September 18, 2015 – As before at the Nürburgring, the number ‘8’ Audi R18 e-tron quattro will start round five of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) from position three. On the circuit at Austin, Texas, it will share the second row of the grid with the sister car driven by Marcel Fässler/André Lotterer/Benoît Tréluyer.**

In qualifying, air temperature of 34 degrees centigrade and 42 degrees on the tarmac gave the Audi drivers a foretaste of the 6-hour race on Saturday. “The race will make extreme demands on the drivers and cars,” says Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “Following three free practice sessions and qualifying, our drivers agree that it’s very challenging to precisely set up the car so that we’re able to drive consistently fast for six hours. And exactly that’s our aim in the race.”

Chris Reinke, Head of LMP at Audi Sport, emphasizes the progress the team has made during the course of two practice days: “After we unfortunately lost a lot of practice time on Thursday, the two Audi R18 e-tron quattro cars delivered a flawless performance in the third free practice and in qualifying. Our whole team thoroughly prepared for the race and the same goes for the drivers. We’re ready.”

Loïc Duval and Oliver Jarvis in car number ‘8’ achieved a lap time of 1m 47.538s. André Lotterer in car number ‘7’ set the best time of all Audi drivers (1m 47.007s) and, together with teammate Benoît Tréluyer, achieved a classified time of 1m 47.898s. The race on the 5.513-kilometer Circuit of the Americas will start on Saturday at 17.00, local time. Just two and a half hours later, the drivers will be experiencing the sunset and the fans can look forward to a fascinating night race.

In Germany, the race will be broadcast live on Eurosport on September 20 from 00.00 to 6.15. A summary will follow from 9.30 to 10.30.



## Qualifying results

- 1 Dumas/Jani/Lieb (Porsche) 1m 46.211s
- 2 Bernhard/Hartley/Webber (Porsche) 1m 46.375s
- 3 di Grassi/Duval/Jarvis (Audi R18 e-tron quattro) 1m 47.538s
- 4 Fässler/Lotterer/Tréluyer (Audi R18 e-tron quattro) 1m 47.898s
- 5 Buemi/Davidson/Nakajima (Toyota) 1m 48.990s
- 6 Conway/Sarrazin/Wurz (Toyota) 1m 49.176s
- 7 Beche/Heidfeld/Prost (Rebellion) 1m 53.950s
- 8 Abt/Imperatori/Kraihamer (Rebellion) 1m 54.506s
- 9 Kaffer/Trummer (CLM-AER) 1m 55.794s
- 10 Bradley/Howson/Lapierre (Oreca-Nissan) 1m 56.834s

– End –

In 2014, the Audi Group delivered approximately 1,741,100 cars of the Audi brand to its customers. The company achieved revenue of €53.8 billion and an operating profit of €5.15 billion in 2014. Audi operates globally in more than 100 markets and has production facilities in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Brussels (Belgium), Bratislava (Slovakia), Martorell (Spain), Kaluga (Russia), Aurangabad (India), Changchun and Foshan (China) as well as Jakarta (Indonesia). The brand with the Four Rings will start producing cars in Curitiba (Brazil) this year and in San José Chiapa (Mexico) in 2016. Wholly owned subsidiaries of AUDI AG include quattro GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy) and sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy). The company currently employs approximately 80,000 people worldwide, thereof around 58,000 in Germany. Total investment of about €24 billion is planned from 2015 to 2019 – primarily in new products and sustainable technologies. Audi is committed to its corporate responsibility and has anchored the principle of sustainability for its products and processes in its strategy. The long-term goal is CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral mobility.