



Communications Motorsport

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Audi Motorsport Newsletter 14/2016

- **Audi customer teams win at Hockenheim**
- **Strong fightback in Blancpain GT Series Endurance Cup**
- **Lucas di Grassi extends Formula E championship lead**

Ingolstadt, April 24, 2016 – Victorious outings for Audi customer teams in Germany: in the DMV GTC, HCB-Rutronik Racing and Land Motorsport converted three pole positions into three wins. However, trophies were also welcomed in Portugal and France.

Audi customer teams dominate in the DMV GTC

Three pole positions, three wins: Audi customer teams were in fine form at the second DMV GTC race weekend at Hockenheim. Despite the tricky conditions, pole sitter Marc Basseng (Land Motorsport) claimed first position in the opening race in an Audi R8 LMS ahead of his stablemates Fabian Plentz and Tommy Tulpe (both HCB-Rutronik Racing). As a result, Audi drivers monopolized the podium at the awards ceremony. In race two, Plentz crossed the line first in an Audi R8 LMS ultra ahead of his team mate Tulpe, who was the quickest in qualifying. In the concluding Dunlop 60, Plentz/Tulpe were unbeatable. Starting from pole position, the duo won convincingly by almost a complete lap.

Podium finish in the International GT Open

Good performance in the International GT Open season opener: at the race in Estoril, Portugal, local matador César Campaniço and his team mate Andrés Saravia from Guatemala took second place in the second race. Saravia started the second race from seventh on the grid in the Audi R8 LMS ultra entered by the Drivex School team. The Audi customer team made up several places thanks to a cleverly timed driver change. After starting the last lap in fourth place, Campaniço still managed to claim a position on the podium.

Good result for Belgian Audi Club Team WRT

Challenging Blancpain GT Series Endurance Cup season opener: in a first show of strength at Monza, the Belgian Audi Club Team WRT scored a good result with the drivers Antonio Garcia, Will Stevens and Nico Müller. In a difficult race on the

traditional Italian race track, the trio started from 21st place. After the three hour race, Garcia/Stevens/Müller crossed the finish line sixth in an Audi R8 LMS. Three places further back and in the top ten were Dries Vanthoor/Frédéric Vervisch/Laurens Vanthoor in another WRT Audi.

Lucas di Grassi triumphant as Formula E debuts in Paris

Lucas di Grassi did not just inspire the fans as Formula E made its debut, but also extended his championship lead. The Audi factory driver started the race from second on the grid, took the lead at the first corner before controlling the seventh race of the season in convincing style. di Grassi competes in the electric racing series for the ABT Schaeffler Audi Sport squad and now sits atop the overall rankings when the German team heads to its home in Berlin on May 21.

A word from ... Philipp Mondelaers

Philipp Mondelaers is Project Leader for the Audi Sport TT Cup since the beginning of the year. He makes an initial appraisal before the Audi one-make cup season starts on May 7-8 as support event to the DTM at the Hockenheimring.

How did preparations for the season go?

Especially during the tests at Hockenheim it was clear to see just what our budding young talents can achieve on the race track. We have a very good mix of Rookies, who compete for the first time in the Audi Sport TT Cup, as well as experienced drivers. In the qualifying simulation, six drivers were within only five tenths of a second. This not only promises plenty of nail-biting action, but also plenty of different faces on the podium.

You worked for Audi Sport in the DTM and in GT racing before. What prompted your change to the Audi Sport TT Cup?

I didn't have to think twice when Rolf Michl as former Project Leader moved into Product Marketing and I was asked if I would like to be his successor. For me, it is just the challenge I was looking for. I wanted to devote myself to something new. Being the Audi Sport TT Cup Project Leader is very exciting, and I'm really looking forward to tackling this huge task.

What's so special about the Audi Sport TT Cup for you?

In addition to the actual program of a one-make up, training the young drivers is very much the focus. The Audi Sport TT Cup boasts high quality content at trackside yet again in 2016. From fitness camps via nutrition plans and media training to data analysis, we give the budding young talents as much as possible on their way to forging a successful career in motorsport.



Nurturing talent is taken seriously in the Audi Sport TT Cup. Several drivers who competed in the premiere season made the jump into GT racing. Did the training plan pay off?

Most certainly. The great thing about the Audi Sport TT Cup is that competitors become visible in the world of motorsport. I see this as a clear aim of our one-make cup. The competition among the young racing drivers is already very fierce. Through the Audi Sport TT Cup, the talents can make a splash very early on and open doors for their career path while competing on the DTM support program. Obviously I'm very pleased if a GT3 team acknowledges a particular driver's good performance and succeeds in the next step.

Coming up next week

29/04–01/05 Laguna Seca (USA), IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, round 3

29/04–01/05 Sachsenring (D), ADAC GT Masters, races 3 and 4

29/04–01/05 Sachsenring (D), Spezial Tourenwagen Trophy, races 3 and 4

29/04–01/05 Monza (I), Italian GT Championship, races 1 and 2

30/04 Nürburgring (D), VLN, round 2

30/04–01/05 Rockingham (GB), British GT Championship, round 2

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The Audi Group, with its brands Audi, Ducati and Lamborghini, is one of the most successful manufacturers of automobiles and motorcycles in the premium segment. It is present in more than 100 markets worldwide and produces at 16 locations in twelve countries. In the second half of 2016, the production of the Audi Q5 will start in San José Chiapa (Mexico). 100-percent subsidiaries of AUDI AG include quattro GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy) and Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy).

In 2015, the Audi Group delivered to customers approximately 1.8 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 3,245 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and about 54,800 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2015 financial year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of €58.4 billion and an operating profit of €4.8 billion. At present, approximately 85,000 people work for the company all over the world, about 60,000 of them in Germany. Audi focuses on new products and sustainable technologies for the future of mobility.