



Communications Motorsport

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Audi on second row at Spa

- **“Super pole” cancelled at 24-hour race due to storm**
- **Stéphane Ortelli clinches grid position four for Audi**

Ingolstadt/Spa, July 27, 2012 – The two fastest Audi R8 LMS ultra cars from Audi Sport Teams Phoenix and WRT will be starting into the 24-hour race at Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium) from grid positions four and 13 after the “super pole” qualifying session was cancelled due to rain.

66 GT sports cars from twelve different marques are pitted against each other in the competition of the world’s best GT3 vehicles including a total of four Audi R8 LMS ultra cars fielded through Audi Sport Teams Phoenix and WRT plus six Audi customer cars.

As expected, the most important GT3 race of the year features a uniquely competitive field as merely 1.544 seconds separated the fastest vehicles after the first qualifying sessions on Thursday night. Just a few hundredths ultimately decided who qualified for the so called “super pole” session at which the top 20 grid positions were to be awarded on Friday afternoon.

With Christopher Haase/Christopher Mies/Stéphane Ortelli (Audi R8 LMS ultra #1) on position four and Marcel Fässler/Tom Kristensen/André Lotterer (Audi R8 LMS ultra #6) in 13th place, one vehicle of each of the two Audi factory teams managed the leap into the top 20. Stéphane Ortelli and Marcel Fässler achieved their fastest times in the first qualifying session which turned out to be decisive as in the second session held in darkness none of the drivers managed to advance into the top 20 anymore.

Yet the eagerly awaited battle for the top 20 grid positions fell through as the “super pole” qualifying had to be cancelled after torrential rainfalls. The results of the first two sessions were used for the grid formation.

“Naturally, it’s a shame that there was no real battle for the pole position,” commented Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “But the conditions were



really extreme and the cancellation of the super pole was absolutely right. The grid positions are not so important at a 24-hour race anyway.”

Marco Bonanomi/Edward Sandström/Laurens Vantoor (Audi R8 LMS ultra #2) and Andrea Piccini/René Rast/Frank Stippler (Audi R8 LMS ultra #16) will be starting into the race that Audi won for the first time last year from positions 21 and 29. Like their team colleagues, they were only able to start qualifying with a delay since new data logging software of the race organizer had immobilized the electronics of all R8 cars.

The fastest time of a customer car was set by Filipe Albuquerque in the Audi R8 LMS ultra #40 of the French Sainteloc Racing team.

The race at Spa will start on Saturday at 1600 hrs (local time). Audi.tv will broadcast major portions of the race on www.audi-liveracing.com live on the internet starting at 1530 hrs.

The grid positions at Spa

- 1 Lauda/Franchi/Kechele (BMW) 2m 19.473s
- 2 Paltalla/Leinders/Martin (BMW) 2m 19.552s
- 3 Parente/Barff/Goodwin/Wills (McLaren) 2m 19.729s
- 4 Haase/Mies/Ortelli (Audi R8 LMS ultra) 2m 20.026s
- 5 Lemeret/van Hooydonck/den Boer (BMW) 2m 20.031s
- 6 Verdonck/Mondron/Clarke/van de Poele (McLaren) 2m 20.085s
- ...
- 12 Fässler/Kristensen/Lotterer (Audi R8 LMS ultra)
- 21 Bonanomi/Sandström/Vanthoor (Audi R8 LMS ultra) 2m 20.790s
- 27 Albuquerque/Guilvert/Lunardi (Audi R8 LMS ultra) 2m 20.957s
- 29 Piccini/Rast/Stippler (Audi R8 LMS ultra) 2m 20.982s
- 42 Wilins/Belshaw/Scott/Keen (Audi R8 LMS) 2m 22.488s
- 48 Patterson/Meins/Li/Blundell (Audi R8 LMS ultra) 2m 23.643s
- 53 Behrens/Ros/Ohman/Skoog (Audi R8 LMS) 2m 26.599s
- 55 Brunstedt/Bender/Mangs (Audi R8 LMS) 2m 26.958s
- 61 Marie/Hissom/Hirschi/Demay (Audi R8 LMS) 2m 20.022s

- 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 amongst others 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 bike manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna/Italy). 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" claim. 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 CO₂-neutral mobility.

