



Communications Motorsport

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Audi R18 e-tron quattro ready for official test day at Le Mans

- **Only opportunity to drive on the track before the race**
- **Set-up of hybrid sports car even more complex this year**
- **Eight Audi drivers to start in three race cars**

Ingolstadt, May 27, 2014 – June 1 is the day of the ‘dress rehearsal’ for the new generation of the Audi R18 e-tron quattro. The official test day at Le Mans has traditionally been the only opportunity for all the teams to set up their cars for the track before the week of events for the 24-hour race begins.

The 13.629-kilometer circuit at La Sarthe is legendary. Long sections of the ‘Circuit des 24 Heures’ are public roads which are closed to road traffic on the test day and during the race week. “This makes it particularly important to use this valuable time systematically, efficiently and thoroughly prepared,” says Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “On June 1, we’ll have eight hours of testing available for a very extensive program. Due to the new regulations even more factors than before have to be considered this year. In addition to the previously known set-up work, the tests will be about achieving the specified consumption targets on this track for the first time.”

Lucas di Grassi/Loïc Duval/Tom Kristensen (BR/F/DK), Marcel Fässler/André Lotterer/Benoît Tréluyer (CH/D/F) and Filipe Albuquerque/Marco Bonanomi (P/I) will share the test program created by Audi Sport in their three sports cars. From suspension kinematics to the hybrid system, from the engine to aerodynamics, from various control maps to the tires: The workload will be split between the three R18 e-tron quattro cars in order to generate a solid database that can subsequently be used by the whole team.

A special task makes additional demands on the drivers and race engineers this year. Every R18 e-tron quattro may only consume 138.7 megajoules of energy at Le Mans this year – which equates to 3.95 liters of diesel fuel. The stewards of the meeting will receive the consumption data in real time, which allows them to monitor the compliance of all LMP1 sports cars with this requirement.



“During our track tests, as well as in rounds one and two of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) at Silverstone and Spa, we saw that the new rules are associated with many learning processes,” says Chris Reinke, Head of LMP at Audi Sport. “Now we’re familiarizing ourselves with the application of the new rules, as well as our new car in the specification for the 24-hour race in the track conditions of Le Mans.”

Two weeks after the test day, Audi will be contesting the iconic 24-hour race in the western part of France in which the brand has clinched twelve victories to date.

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Note to editors: Before the Le Mans race on June 14 and 15, we will be providing you with new background information on the R18 project and Audi’s commitment in the world’s most famous endurance race on a weekly basis. Next week’s topic: preview of the 24-hour race at Le Mans.

The Audi Group delivered approximately 1,575,500 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2013. As one of the most successful models, the Audi A3 has been awarded the title of ‘World Car of the Year 2014’ by an international jury of journalists (combined fuel consumption in l/100 km: 7.1–3.2; combined CO₂ emissions in g/km: 165–85). In 2013, the company reported revenue of €49.9 billion and an operating profit of €5.03 billion. The company 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 (China) and Jakarta (Indonesia). Since the end of 2013, the brand with the Four Rings has also been producing cars in Foshan (China). In 2015, Audi will start production in São José dos Pinhais (Brazil), followed by 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 Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy), the sports motorcycle manufacturer. The company currently employs more than 73,500 people worldwide, of which more than 52,500 in Germany. Total investment of around €22 billion is planned from 2014 to 2018 – 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 CO₂-neutral mobility.