



Communications Motorsport

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Audi starts WEC season from second row

- **Loïc Duval/Lucas di Grassi/Oliver Jarvis in position three**
- **Both Audi R18 e-tron quattro cars of Audi Sport Team Joest in the top five**
- **Head of Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich: “Good base for the race”**

Ingolstadt/Silverstone, April 11, 2015 – Motorsport fans can look forward to a thrilling FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) season opener. In the qualifying session at Silverstone (Great Britain) the gaps between the top cars amounted to only a few tenths of a second. Loïc Duval, Lucas di Grassi and Oliver Jarvis, who will be starting the 6-hour race on Sunday from position three in their Audi R18 e-tron quattro, were the best Audi team.

Following heavy intermittent rain in the morning, the drivers started qualifying on a dry track at noon. The fastest man under the banner of the four rings was Lucas di Grassi, who in the number ‘8’ Audi R18 e-tron quattro set the first best time of 1m 40.180s. His team-mate Oliver Jarvis, who posted 1m 40.525s, managed a strong lap as well. In the WEC, the average of the two fastest laps determines the grid position.

“I’m happy with our grid position even though in the end only twelve hundredths of a second were lacking for the first row,” says Lucas di Grassi. “We know that our competitors are in a better position in qualifying, but I’m confident that we’ll be able to attack across the race distance and are going to deliver a thrilling race to the fans.”

The sister car, number ‘7’ qualified in fifth position on the grid. André Lotterer, who was the second-fastest Audi driver, and Marcel Fässler set the times for the car. “A fair to middling qualifying session in which we didn’t achieve an optimal lap,” says Lotterer. “But anything is possible in the race.”

Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich’s assessment of the first qualifying session in the 2015 season was positive. “We saw a close qualifying session today in which the gaps between the top cars amounted to only a few tenths of a second.” The first two rows on the 5.891-kilometer track at Silverstone are separated by only



six tenths of a second. Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich: “We didn’t achieve the pole position today. But we knew that our strength is not manifested by a fast lap but by consistency in the race. Therefore, the grid positions are a good base for Sunday.”

The 6-hour race at Silverstone starts on Sunday at 12.00, local time (13.00 CEST). Benoît Tréluyer (F) in car number ‘7’ and Lucas di Grassi (BR) in car number ‘8’ will be the starting drivers. Eurosport will broadcast the final stage of the race live from 18.00 to 19.30.

Qualifying results

- 1 Bernhard/Hartley/Webber (Porsche) 1m 39.721s
- 2 Dumas/Jani/Lieb (Porsche) 1m 40.340s
- 3 Di Grassi/Duval/Jarvis (Audi R18 e-tron quattro) 1m 40.352s
- 4 Davidson/Buemi/Nakajima (Toyota) 1m 40.382s
- 5 Fässler/Lotterer/Tréluyer (Audi R18 e-tron quattro) 1m 41.153s
- 6 Conway/Sarrazin/Wurz (Toyota) 1m 41.694s
- 7 Yacaman/Derani/Gonzalez (Ligier-Nissan) 1m 48.021s
- 8 Rusinov/Canal/Bird (Ligier-Nissan) 1m 48.083s
- 9 Howson/Bradley/Tandy (Oreca-Nissan) 1m 49.389s
- 10 Panciatici/Chatin/Capillaire (Alpine-Nissan) 1m 49.498s

– 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 CO₂-neutral mobility.