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Motorsport

Audi target counter strike at the Nürburgring

- **Packed grandstands at DTM race in the Eifel**
- **Intensive preparation with test at Oschersleben**
- **“Home race” for Heinz-Harald Frentzen**

The Audi squad prepared itself for the eagerly awaited final spurt in the DTM with a three-day test at Oschersleben. The “second-half” of the most popular international touring car race series begins on Sunday, 20 August at the Nürburgring and at whose end an Audi driver should, if possible, head-up the championship table. After the opening five races, Tom Kristensen from Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline lies eight-points behind championship leader Bernd Schneider – two less than the ten points that Kristensen lost within sight of the chequered flag due to an unlucky retirement whilst leading at Brands Hatch.

AUDI AG
Kommunikation
85045 Ingolstadt
www.audi.com

Following the difficult race for Audi at the Norisring, the team, lead by Head of Audi Motorsport Dr Wolfgang Ullrich, aims to strike back by claiming its third victory of the season in the Eifel. The omens are good: Mattias Ekström and Tom Kristensen scored a one-two for Audi last year at the Nürburgring. Ekström set the fastest time ever to be recorded by a DTM car on the 3.629 kilometre track in qualifying with the Audi A4 DTM.

Ekström and Kristensen made intensive preparations for the second-half of the season at the test at Oschersleben. Furthermore, both drivers hope to receive active support from their Audi team mates, of whom several consider the race in the Eifel to be their “home race” – first and foremost Heinz-Harald Frentzen, who will stop at nothing to silence the criticism levelled at him in the media, by producing an excellent result.

With its headquarters at the Nürburgring industrial estate in Meuspath, Audi Sport Team Phoenix, which has shown improving form recently together with Audi Sport Team Rosberg and customer team Futurecom TME with its pair of 2004 cars, has a genuine ‘home game’.

The sixth DTM race of the season promises to be yet another highlight – and this in front of an incredible backdrop: The grandstand seats around the Nürburgring are already sold out; only standing room tickets are available at the turnstiles on the day. The trip to the Eifel is also worthwhile for the ARD Chart Show, during which the band “Silbermond” will set the fans pulses racing shortly before the start of the DTM race. Those who prefer to follow the race in television will get their money’s worth from ARD, which broadcasts the entire race live in “Das Erste” from 1:45 p.m. local time.

Quotes before the race at the Nürburgring

Dr Wolfgang Ullrich (Head of Audi Motorsport): “The Nürburgring is one of the circuits on which we have always been very competitive and it should also be the case this time around. We’ll try to get a result that will make it easier to forget the Norisring and, which more importantly puts us in a stronger position in the championship. Our goal is to be as competitive as we were at Oschersleben and Brands Hatch.”

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Martin Tomczyk

Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline, Red Bull Audi A4 DTM #4

“The Nürburgring suited us well last year – especially me. It is one of my favourite tracks, which I’m looking forward to. Our target is quite obviously to win. And the chances should certainly be very good for Audi.”

Mattias Ekström

Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline, Red Bull Audi A4 DTM #5

“The races at the Nürburgring are always very interesting. I won there last year, so I have very fond memories. I want to fight for victory again this time.”

Heinz-Harald Frentzen

Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline, Veltins Audi A4 DTM #6

“I’m looking forward to the Nürburgring and in particular to enjoying the incredible atmosphere there. It’s some kind of home race for me. It is nevertheless a new challenge because I’ll be driving the Audi A4 at the Nürburgring for the first time.”

Tom Kristensen**Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline, Siemens Audi A4 DTM #7**

“The Nürburgring is a fantastic circuit, which our A4 also likes. Our car is particularly good in the Mercedes-Arena... Now we just have to take the good balance and speed with us to the Nürburgring that our A4 had at Oschersleben and Brands Hatch. We know that the Norisring was an atypical track. We’ve prepared ourselves well, so that we can win again at the Nürburgring.”

Christian Abt, Audi Sport Team Phoenix, Playboy Audi A4 DTM #12

“I’m looking forward to the Nürburgring. It is a flowing course which suits our A4 perfectly. So we should be competitive again.”

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Pierre Kaffer**Audi Sport Team Phoenix, Castrol Audi A4 DTM #14**

“The Nürburgring is my home track. A lot of my friends and fans come, and keep their fingers crossed for me. It’s a fantastic feeling to be able to race in front of my home crowd.”

Frank Stippler**Audi Sport Team Rosberg, S line Audi A4 DTM #15**

“The race at the Nürburgring is also a home race for me, which means that the trip is very short. Things always went very well there in the past. We’ll see how it looks at the next race. I’ll just take things as they come.”

Timo Scheider**Audi Sport Team Rosberg, Gebrauchtwagen:plus Audi A4 DTM #16**

“I grew up 70 kilometres away from the Nürburgring. Because of this I hope that I can draw a little more motivation from the many friends and fans that come from around the Nürburgring. In general things look positive. For those of us with a year-old car the target is to score points again.”

Vanina Ickx**Futurecom TME, Original Zubehör Audi A4 DTM #20**

“I’ve already raced at the Nürburgring, but only around the Grand Prix circuit till now and not on the short-loop. However, in general the track is the same. The track has a good rhythm, which I hope is good for us.”

Jeroen Bleekemolen

Futurecom TME, Futurecom Audi A4 DTM #19

“It’s great to be able to drive on a normal circuit again after racing around two such short tracks. I’m interested to see just where we’ll line up with our A4 DTM. I think we are capable of doing another good job at the Nürburgring.”

Hans-Jürgen Abt (Team Director Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline): “It goes without saying that we want to carry on where we left off last year, when we left the Nürburgring with a one-two. The Nürburgring has always been very kind to us, and after the ‘drought’ at the Norisring we are especially motivated to score a good result.”

Ernst Moser (Team Director Audi Sport Team Phoenix): “The past has shown us that the Audi A4 is competitive at the Nürburgring. We have never run the A4 there ourselves, however, we expect that team will also put in a good performance there as well. We’re aiming to score points again, and will work harder to make sure that we qualify better.”

Arno Zensen (Team Director Audi Sport Team Rosberg): “After the relatively good weekend at the Norisring I hope that the good results continue to come our way. It’s actually a home race for both Timo und ‘Stippi’. With luck on their sides they could both finish in the points.”

Communication Motorsport

Telephone +49 (0)841 89 34200, Telefax +49 (0)841 89 38617

E-Mail motorsport-media@audi.de

Photographs, sound bites and additional information can be found in the Internet: www.audi-motorsport.info (accreditation required)

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Facts about the DTM race at the Nürburgring

Every winner on the Nürburgring sprint circuit

2001	Laurent Aiello	Abt-Audi
2002	Uwe Alzen	Mercedes
2003	Christijan Albers	Mercedes
	Laurent Aiello	Abt-Audi
2004	Gary Paffett	Mercedes
2005	Mattias Ekström	Audi

Pole Position 2005

Gary Paffett (Mercedes), 1m 23.161s

DTM lap record

Gary Paffett (Mercedes), 1m 24.442s (2005)

Circuit length

3.629 km

Race distance

43 laps = 156.047 km

Previous results of the Audi drivers at the Nürburgring

	2001	2002	2003 (1)	2003 (2)	2004	2005
Tomczyk	DNF	5	18	DNF	DNF	11
Ekström	14	10	7	4	2	1
Frentzen					DNF	12
Kristensen					5	2
Abt	DNF	9	8	DNF	13	10
Kaffer						18
Stippler						14
Scheider	DNF	7	13	7	6	
Ickx						
Bleekemolen			11	17	14	

2006 DTM point standings

Drivers

1	Schneider	38
2	Kristensen	30
3	Spengler	24
4	Green	19
5	Häkkinen	17
6	Ekström	15
7	Frentzen	11
	Tomczyk	11

Teams

1	Vodafone/Salzgitter AMG Mercedes	57
2	DaimlerChrysler Bank AMG Mercedes	41
3	Audi Sport Team Abt	41
4	Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline	26
5	stern/Easy Rent AMG Mercedes	17
6	TV-Spielfilm/TrekStor AMG Mercedes	5
7	Audi Sport Team Phoenix	5
8	Audi Sport Team Rosberg	3