

Communications Motorsport

Jürgen Pippig
Telephone: +49 (0)841 89 34200
E-mail: motorsport-media@audi.de

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First pole position for Audi A4 DTM at the EuroSpeedway

- **Mattias Ekström stays cool in weather chaos**
- **Three Audi A4 DTM cars on two front rows**
- **Mike Rockenfeller on grid position three in year-old A4**

Ingolstadt/Klettwitz – For the first time ever, an Audi A4 DTM will start from the top grid position at a DTM race at the EuroSpeedway Lausitz. In extremely difficult conditions the Swede Mattias Ekström – like at the Hockenheim season opener – clinched the pole position for Audi. With Mike Rockenfeller and Timo Scheider on positions three and four, two other Audi drivers will start the race on Sunday from the two front rows of the grid.

Rain setting in immediately after the qualifying had started made for a hectic first segment (Q1), in which fast times could only be posted on the very first lap that was still almost dry. Mattias Ekström (Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline) was the only driver to make it into the top 14 at the last moment on the track that was by then wet from rain, thus qualifying for the second section. Hockenheim winner Tom Kristensen (17th place) on the other hand failed to get past Q1, as did his brand colleagues Alexandre Prémat (15th), Martin Tomczyk (16th) and Oliver Jarvis (18th).

“We had not expected rain in the first qualifying segment and decided at the beginning to scrub rain tires for the subsequent qualifying sections,” said Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “Things didn’t go as planned, but hindsight is always twenty-twenty vision. We’re pleased that in the end ‘Eki’ clinched pole for Audi nevertheless – especially on a track that never suited us particularly well in the past.”

On the track that was extremely slippery with air temperatures of just 13 degrees, Mattias Ekström proved his exceptional caliber yet again. He posted the best time in Q2, missed it in Q3 by merely 0.076 seconds and secured the 13th pole position in his DTM career in the crucial fourth section by more than two tenths of a second. "My car was really good again today," raved the Swede. "Despite the difficult conditions I felt comfortable in the cockpit the whole time. Of course I was lucky to some extent in the first part – we kept everyone in suspense somewhat ... On the whole, the result is perfect. I'm very pleased."

Mike Rockenfeller (Audi Sport Team Rosberg) was another Audi driver to manage the leap into the fourth qualifying segment in which he was unable to participate, though, because on the last lap of Q3, after posting a personal best time, he slid into the gravel trap. Despite this mishap, the youngster will start from the second row on Sunday along with Timo Scheider, who missed Q4 by just 38 thousandths of a second. On Sunday, both Audi drivers will benefit from the fact that Mercedes driver Gary Paffett will be relegated from second to seventh place on the grid due to a avoidable collision at the Hockenheim season opener.

Katherine Legge made a strong showing yet again: The Briton from Audi Sport Team Abt Lady Power finished in ninth place and thus clinched the best qualifying result of her DTM career so far, in the prevailing difficult conditions. Another Audi driver, Markus Winkelhock, will line up on the grid alongside Legge.

Tomas Kostka and Christian Bakkerud, who secured grid positions eleven and 13 in their two-year-old Audi A4 DTM cars fielded by the private team Kolles, showed a remarkable performance as well: Christian Seidlitz in the third Kolles A4 will be unable to start on Sunday after an accident in free practice.

The second race of the 2009 DTM season will start on Sunday at 2:03 pm. ARD will broadcast live starting at 2:00 pm (local time) on "Das Erste."

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Photographs and information available at www.audi-motorsport.info



AUDI AG sold a total of 1,003,469 cars in 2008 and thus achieved its 13th consecutive record year. The Company posted new record figures with revenue of €34.2 billion and profit before tax of €3.2 billion. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). Aurangabad in India saw the start of CKD production of the Audi A6 at the end of 2007 and of the Audi A4 in early October 2008. The Company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG's wholly owned subsidiaries include Automobili Lamborghini Holding S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese (Italy) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi currently employs around 58,000 people worldwide, including 46,500 in Germany. The brand with the four rings invests around €2 billion each year in order to sustain the company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" slogan. Audi plans to significantly increase the number of models in its portfolio by 2015 to 42. The AUDI brand celebrates its 100th birthday in 2009. The company was founded by August Horch in Zwickau on July 16, 1909; he named it AUDI after the Latin translation of his surname ("hark!").

