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New Audi R8 LMS meets with fiercest competition of the season at Spa

- **Four new Audi R8 LMS to be fielded in Spa 24 Hours**
- **Presence of customer teams with six other GT3 sports cars of the brand**
- **World's largest GT3 competition with 58 race cars**

Ingolstadt, July 17, 2015 – The new Audi R8 LMS is facing its toughest test so far: the 24-hour race at Spa, Belgium. On July 25 and 26, the race car has to stand its ground in a large field made up of 58 GT3 race cars from eleven marques. The 68th running of the endurance race will be the final test before production of the Audi R8 LMS starts.

In September, Audi will start producing the new Audi R8 LMS for its customers. The fundamentally redesigned production-based race car instantly won its first 24-hour race at the Nürburgring in May. Now the second test in endurance racing is coming up on the Spa-Francorchamps circuit in the Belgian Ardennes. Only after this test will Audi determine the final specifications.

“The races at Spa and at the Nürburgring are not comparable. The Spa 24 Hours are part of the Blancpain Endurance Series in which, due to the regulations, a different rating of the various race cars applies than at the Nürburgring,” says Romolo Liebchen, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. The teams work together with a different tire manufacturer who is mandatory for all the participants in this series. These differences should not be underrated, according to Liebchen. “Still, we’re going to try everything we can to continue our success and have put ourselves in a strong position in terms of technology, the teams and the drivers. Following the race at Spa, we’ll be ready for the production launch.”

Audi won the iconic event at Spa in 2011 and 2014 with Vincent Vosse’s Belgian Audi Club Team WRT and in 2012 with Ernst Moser’s Phoenix Racing team. Each of these two squads is fielding two new Audi R8 LMS cars this year. Four high-caliber driver lineups will be tackling the challenge in the production-based mid-engine sports car. Last year’s winners René Rast, Laurens Vanthoor and Markus Winkelhock will compete in car number ‘1.’ In the sister car of WRT, Nico Müller, Stéphane

Ortelli and Frank Stippler, who are bringing a wealth of experience from further 24-hour victories at the Nürburgring, at Spa and Le Mans to the event, will be taking turns at the wheel.

Ernst Moser relies on six 24-hour race winners as well. Three Le Mans winners – Marcel Fässler, André Lotterer and Mike Rockenfeller – are forming a driver squad at Phoenix. In addition, Fässler mounted the top step of the podium at Spa in 2007. Christian Mamerow, Christopher Mies and Nicki Thiim, who are sharing another cockpit at Phoenix, have previously recorded Nürburgring victories in their career histories.

Thanks to its customers Audi is equalizing its top number of ten race cars fielded at Spa in 2012. The four teams, WRT, Parker Racing, Saintéloc Racing and ISR, are fielding six other Audi cars. They are battling for success and championship points in the Pro Cup, Pro Am Cup and Am Cup classifications with their drivers. The customer teams rely on the successful Audi R8 LMS ultra. In total, 33 Audi drivers will be on the grid of the Spa 24 Hours. Audi Sport customer racing supports all teams with services, spare parts and customer racing consultants.

The Audi customer teams in the 2015 Spa 24 Hours

Audi Sport Team WRT (Audi R8 LMS)

- #1 René Rast/Laurens Vanthoor/Markus Winkelhock (D/B/D)
- #2 Nico Müller/Stéphane Ortelli/Frank Stippler (CH/MC/D)

Belgian Audi Club Team WRT (Audi R8 LMS ultra)

- #3 Robin Frijns/Stéphane Richelmi/Jean-Karl Vernay (NL/MC/F)

Team WRT (Audi R8 LMS ultra)

- #4 Sacha Bottemanne/James Nash/Max Koebolt/Pieter Schothorst (F/GB/NL/NL)

Audi Sport Team Phoenix (Audi R8 LMS)

- #5 Christian Mamerow/Christopher Mies/Nicki Thiim (D/D/DK)
- #6 Marcel Fässler/André Lotterer/Mike Rockenfeller (CH/D/D)

Team Parker Racing (Audi R8 LMS ultra)

- #24 Ian Loggie/Callum Macleod/Benny Simonsen/Julian Westwood (GB/GB/DK/GB)

Team Saintéloc Racing (Audi R8 LMS ultra)

- #35 Marc Basseng/Grégory Guilvert/Edward Sandström (D/F/S)
- #36 Michaël Blanchemain/Mino Caccia/Philippe Haezebrouck/Gilles Lallement (F/CH/F/F)



ISR (Audi R8 LMS ultra)

#75 Marco Bonanomi/Filip Salaquarda/Frédéric Vervisch (I/CZ/B)

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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.