



Communications Motorsport

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Quotes after qualifying at the Nürburgring

Ingolstadt/Nürburg, August 6, 2011 – Six Audi A4 DTM cars on the top eight positions of the grid, Mattias Ekström on pole. Quotes after a qualifying session for the DTM race at the Nürburgring that went well for Audi (Sunday starting at 13:45 p.m. – local time – on “Das Erste”).

Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich (Head of Audi Motorsport)

“Today everyone was having a difficult time of putting the decisions into action at the right moment. That it started to rain again in Q4 was of course an additional bit of a gamble. But with six Audi cars in the top eight we’d already had a very good team performance by that time. That ‘Eki’ with a perfect lap in difficult conditions then converted this into pole was primarily his achievement.”

Mattias Ekström (Red Bull Audi A4 DTM), grid position 1

“It’s nice to be back on pole again. But it’s also nice to finally experience a trouble-free weekend again. So far, we’ve had a good Friday and a very good Saturday. Now the key is to stay just as concentrated in order to continue the same way in warm-up and in the race.”

Mike Rockenfeller (E-POSTBRIEF Audi A4 DTM), grid position 3

“In qualifying we used just a few sets of tires and were always running well. Being third in the end is great. The front row would have been a bit nicer. That had been possible too but the conditions were very difficult for all of us in Q4. I tried everything. In the first turn I wanted too much in a wet place. Once the wheel stops it takes time until it starts to move again. There I lost the time that cost me the front row. But it’s more important that we were among the front runners the whole time. That makes me feel optimistic. I’d really like to thank my engineer and my team. They worked hard and did a good job.”

Edoardo Mortara (Playboy Audi A4 DTM), grid position 5

“It’s been one of my best qualifying sessions so far. But I’m not completely satisfied because I made some mistakes on my lap. The conditions were difficult because



there was drizzling rain. With a good pace in the race and without any mistakes at the start we could be doing a good job.”

Miguel Molina (Red Bull Audi A4 DTM), grid position 6

“For me it was a good qualifying session, the best one in this season. We’ve got a good chance for the race. We were quick today and had a good rhythm.”

Martin Tomczyk (Schaeffler Audi A4 DTM), grid position 7

“Qualifying was very difficult yet again, as we’ve seen on several previous occasions this year in the DTM. It repeatedly started drizzling. It was difficult to hit the right time for a lap. In the end it didn’t completely work out. But generally I’m happy with our performance this weekend. As I’d already suggested before the weekend we do have a bit of a battle here with the older cars. That has proved to be true. Still, the starting base isn’t bad.”

Timo Scheider (AUTO TEST Audi A4 DTM), grid position 8

“It was very difficult. In the beginning I only managed not to be eliminated as early as in the first qualifying segment with a lot of luck. It could have easily turned out to be position 16. I still managed a really good last lap in Q1. When the track was drying off we were struggling with the same phenomena as we’d been since Friday morning. We aren’t able to adapt the rear suspension to my driving style. That’s a bit frustrating and really too bad as I like the Nürburgring a lot and have had good experiences here. Still, we’re optimistic for tomorrow. I’m hoping that in front of a home crowd of fans I’ll be able to move forward some more.”

Filipe Albuquerque (TV Movie Audi A4 DTM), grid position 12

“It was really a tough and tricky qualifying session as in Q1 I was running on slicks on a moist track and wanted to make it into Q2. It was hard but I managed to move forward. Q2 was dry and I was able to drive the best lap time of my weekend. Unfortunately, I had a lot of traffic on the first lap on the second set of tires. That wasn’t ideal. The second lap then was okay. I missed my goal – Q3 – by eight hundredths of a second.”

Oliver Jarvis (Audi Sport performance cars A4 DTM), grid position 15

“I was the first one to see the checkered flag, everyone else improved on the last lap. But I didn’t have a chance to do that. We were tenth and then I dropped to 15th place. That’s disappointing. We made a big step forward since yesterday. I’d have thought that a place among the top six would have been possible.”



Rahel Frey (Glamour Audi A4 DTM), grid position 16

“I’m a bit disappointed because I was in eleventh place for a long time. I was too cautious on my first fast lap. In the end, that cost me Q2. I wasn’t aggressive enough. Tomorrow I’ll be starting from position 16. At least there are still two cars behind me.”

Hans-Jürgen Abt (Team Director Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline): “Well done to the whole team. It did a flawless job. That can’t be taken for granted in this stress situation. Today we showed that everything went superbly. Obviously we’re really pleased to see Mattias Ekström back on pole again – and with a huge lead at that. That was a great thing. I’m happy that we’re back. Mike Rockenfeller achieved a great result as well. We had the chance of being on the front row with both cars. But I’m also very pleased with him being on the second row. That’s a good prerequisite for the race.”

Ernst Moser (Team Director Audi Sport Team Phoenix): “By taking position 16 Rahel (Frey) equalized her best result. That makes me very happy. Had she managed to cross the finish line once more just before the end then she’d have easily made it into Q2. But that’s the way it is in these kinds of weather conditions. Martin (Tomczyk) showed a commanding performance in the first two qualifying segments: once in first place and once in second place. In Q3 he apparently tried a new line in the first sector. But that didn’t go as well as he’d been thinking. We were out in no time. That’s a shame but we can still be pleased with the grid positions. Bruno Spengler is fourth, Martin seventh. That means a lot can still be achieved in the race.”

Arno Zensen (Team Director Audi Sport Team Rosberg): “It was incredibly thrilling. At first we were still running on rain tires. That was the wrong decision. We just barely moved forward. In Q3 we managed eighth place with Edoardo (Mortara) by a narrow margin. He converted that into position five on the grid which makes him the best driver of a year-old car. Well done to Edo! It’s a shame that Filipe (Albuquerque) was lacking six hundredths to eighth place. That’s nothing to fret about, but naturally it’s really too bad. But on the whole I’m pleased.”



The Audi Group delivered around 1,092,400 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2010. The Company posted revenue of €35.4 billion and an operating profit of €3.3 billion in 2010. In the first half of 2011, the Audi Group sold 652,970 vehicles bearing the four rings worldwide and achieved record figures in terms of revenue (€21.5 billion) and operating profit (€2.5 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, of the Audi A4 in early October 2008 and of the Audi Q5 in July 2010. Production of the new Audi A1 has been running at the Brussels plant since May 2010. The Audi Q3 has been built in Martorell (Spain) since June 2011. The Company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG's wholly owned subsidiaries include AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft., Automobili Lamborghini Holding S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese (Italy) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi currently employs around 60,000 people worldwide, including around 46,600 in Germany. Between 2011 and 2015 the brand with the four rings is planning to invest more than €11 billion, mainly in new products, in order to sustain the Company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" slogan. By 2015, Audi plans to increase the number of models in its portfolio to 42.

Audi has long been fulfilling its social responsibility on many levels – with the aim of making the future worth living for generations to come. The basis for Audi's lasting success is therefore formed by environmental protection, the conservation of resources, international competitiveness and a forward-looking human resources policy. One example of AUDI AG's commitment to environmental issues is the newly established Audi Environmental Foundation. Under the heading of "Audi balanced mobility," the Company is directing its activities toward a major goal – comprehensive CO₂-neutral mobility.