



Communications Motorsport

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René Rast – new signing with ambitions

- **Audi Sport Team Joest's new driver**

Ingolstadt, February 17, 2015 – When Audi announced the up-and-coming racer René Rast as a new LMP driver in December 2014 a dream came true for him. Hailing from Westphalia, Rast is a German talent to have managed the leap into the top category of sports car racing. Alongside André Lotterer, he is the only other German in Audi Sport Team Joest.

“Having been accepted into the LMP driver line-up was a dream for me,” beamed the driver from Minden. “Every racer pursues the aim of being able to compete for a manufacturer in a major motorsport program.”

Rast has already experienced a few champagne showers on the podium as a driver of Audi's GT race cars. The 2014 season was particularly successful for him. Together with his team-mates he won the Nürburgring 24 Hours with Phoenix Racing and the Spa 24 Hours with the Belgian Audi Club Team WRT – the two most important GT endurance races.

But the German was not only able to rely on the fortes of the Audi R8 LMS ultra on the distance twice around the clock. Last year also saw him take the title in the ADAC GT Masters, one of the best GT3 racing series worldwide, in Team Prosperia C. Abt Racing. Besides his driving skills, he displayed valuable personal traits there as well. His team-mate Kelvin van der Linde from South Africa was only 17 years old at the beginning of the season and obviously very much appreciated the support and tips he received from his fellow campaigner.

“We're only successful as a team – that goes for both GT and LMP racing,” says Rast, who is going to contest the Spa 6 Hours and the Le Mans 24 Hours in the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC). He will be sharing the cockpit of the #9 Audi R18 e-tron quattro with Filipe Albuquerque (P) and Marco Bonanomi (I) – two drivers he already knows well from Audi's GT programs.



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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.