



**Communications Motorsport**

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## **Season opener for Audi at Silverstone**

- **First race of the new Audi R18**
- **Audi Sport Team Joest on grid with two driver squads**

**Ingolstadt, April 11, 2016 – Audi will start to its fifth season in the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) on April 17. On the 5.891-kilometer track at Silverstone near the UK town of Northampton, the brand will be contesting the season opener with two new LMP1 race cars.**

The Silverstone 6 Hours is a classic on the international sports car calendar. Since 2012, the race has been part of the FIA WEC. Previously, Audi had been successful on the tradition-steeped circuit with its LMP race cars three times and once with the super touring cars. At last year's event, endurance racing fans witnessed a thrilling competition, as the Audi drivers and their rivals overtook each other several times per lap. In the end, the brand with the four rings won. Marcel Fässler/André Lotterer/Benoît Tréluyer (CH/D/F) were the fastest drivers last April, crossing the finish line with a 4.6-second advantage following a nail-biting race. Next Sunday, the hybrid sports cars from Audi, Porsche and Toyota will be meeting again in a field of 33 participants in total.

"The cards have been reshuffled this year," says Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. "All the manufacturers will be on the grid with new race cars. The Audi R18 practically has not a single bolt in common anymore with its predecessor. Nobody knows the new relative strengths yet. The Silverstone season opener will be the first assessment of where everyone stands." Audi has optimized many areas of its LMP1 race car. The R18's V6 TDI engine has to run with about ten percent less fuel. Still, Audi intends to remain a powerful contender due to better efficiency. With the new hybrid system and around 1,000 hp of system output, the new R18 puts more power on track than any of its predecessors. Aerodynamics, the monocoque and the suspension are new, as well as many systems in the race car such as central hydraulics. The ultimate objective is to achieve maximum efficiency combined with high performance – as required by the regulations. The R18 now processes 50 percent more hybrid energy than its predecessor, storing it in a battery

for the first time.

Alongside last year's winners, Fässler/Lotterer/Tréluyer, in car number "7," Lucas di Grassi/Loïc Duval/Oliver Jarvis (BR/F/GB) are competing in car number "8" for Audi Sport Team Joest. For Oliver Jarvis, Silverstone is a home round – he lives in Burwell, 130 kilometers away from the race track.

Audi has a special relationship with the United Kingdom and the UK automobile market. Within the space of a decade, the brand more than doubled its deliveries there and in 2015 added another five percent. In 2015, Audi delivered 166,817 units in the UK, more than ever before.

The first of nine FIA WEC rounds will start on Sunday, April 17, at 12:00 (13:00 CEST). Eurosport will start to air 130 minutes of live coverage of the race decision at 17:00 CEST. In addition, Audi will be offering accompanying reportage on Facebook (AudiSport), Twitter (@Audi\_Sport) and the Audi Sport App.

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The Audi Group, with its brands Audi, Ducati and Lamborghini, is one of the most successful manufacturers of automobiles and motorcycles in the premium segment. It is present in more than 100 markets worldwide and produces at 16 locations in twelve countries. In the second half of 2016, the production of the Audi Q5 will start in San José Chiapa (Mexico). 100-percent subsidiaries of AUDI AG include quattro GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy) and Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy).

In 2015, the Audi Group delivered to customers approximately 1.8 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 3,245 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and about 54,800 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2015 financial year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of €58.4 billion and an operating profit of €4.8 billion. At present, approximately 85,000 people work for the company all over the world, about 60,000 of them in Germany. Audi focuses on new products and sustainable technologies for the future of mobility.