



Communications Motorsport

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World RX: Audi and EKS want to rock Riga

- **World Champion Mattias Ekström travels to Latvia in third overall**
- **Local hero Reinis Nitišs particularly motivated for round on home soil**
- **Audi DTM driver Nico Müller again in fourth Audi S1 EKS RX quattro**

Neuburg, September 12, 2017 – The 2017 FIA World Rallycross Championship is turning onto the finish straight, with round ten of twelve to be staged in Riga. A decision may already be produced in both the drivers' and the teams' classification. Ranked in third overall, Mattias Ekström is aiming to clinch his fourth victory this season. In the race in the Latvian capital, Audi and EKS are again competing with four Audi S1 EKS RX quattro cars. Alongside Ekström and the other two permanent EKS drivers, Toomas Heikkinen and Reinis Nitišs, Audi DTM campaigner Nico Müller will again contest the event.

Last year, Riga celebrated a brilliant premiere in the World RX. In spite of torrential rain falling some of the time, the enthusiastic fans stuck it out and provided the World Championship with a worthy setting. Subsequently, the event was recognized as the best in the 2016 World RX. "The track is fantastic and was good to drive even in rain," says Ekström who came second behind Sébastien Loeb in the final. "This year, we already tested in Riga and will give our all to reduce our gap to the competition a little more. France was a step in the right direction. In qualifying, I'm shooting for the top spot and want to start from pole position in the semi-finals."

The track is part of the tradition-steeped Biķernieki Sports Complex and was built from scratch last year. The surface in the gravel sections is about as hard as that in Lohéac, France, resulting in a mix of fast tarmac sections and treacherous corners on both surfaces. Uniquely, the normal circuit and the joker section are completely parallel, both featuring a jump.

For local hero Reinis Nitišs, this is a very special race: "Riga is my home round, so that's maximum motivation," says the Latvian. His teammate Toomas Heikkinen, after finishing ninth overall last year, is aiming for the next final. "The track suits me and I know that I've got what it takes to finish in the top six," says the Finn. Nico Müller is going to do another stint in the Audi S1 EKS RX quattro. The Audi DTM driver delivered a much-noticed premiere in the most recent round in France and would like to gather additional rallycross experience. His aim: the semi-finals as a minimum.



About Latvia RX

Track	Biķernieki Sports Complex, 10 km east of Riga
Track length	1.295 km (Joker lap: 1.355 km)
Surface	60% tarmac, 40% gravel
Turns	8 left, 4 right
Top speed	approx. 161 km/h
Entries	21 supercars (World RX)
Lap record	Timur Tyszerzyanov (RUS), 49.301s (2016)
Winner 2016	Sébastien Loeb (F), 5m 27.665s
Race duration	4 laps (qualifying), 6 laps (semi-finals and final)

Schedule World RX, local time (CEST +1)

Friday, September 15

16:00–16:30 Press conference at Riga Motor Museum (with Reinis Nitišs)

Saturday, September 16

10:00–11:30 Free practice

13:00–14:00 Qualifying 1 (Q1)

15:30–16:30 Qualifying 2 (Q2)

Sunday, September 17

09:30–10:30 Qualifying 3 (Q3)

11:30–12:30 Qualifying 4 (Q4)

15:00–15:50 Semi-finals and final

Additional information and content

- [Info about Audi's World RX commitment](#)
- [Results and points standings](#)
- [Photos](#)

– End –

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