



Communications

Audi Sport customer racing

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Audi travels to California as leader of the standings

- **Premiere: Intercontinental GT Challenge to visit Laguna Seca for the first time in mid-October**
- **Two factory-backed Audi R8 LMS and one privateer race car on the grid**
- **Audi and Christopher Haase lead table in global GT series**

Neuburg, September 28, 2017 – Premiere in California: From October 14 to 15, the California 8 Hours at Laguna Seca are on the calendar of the Intercontinental GT Challenge, the only global GT racing series, for the first time. Following its victory at the 24 Hours of Spa in July with Christopher Haase, Audi is traveling to America as the leader of the standings.

The Audi R8 is returning to Laguna Seca. For Audi, the race track 150 kilometers south of San Francisco is linked to a great sports car tradition. Between 2000 and 2008, the brand's Le Mans prototypes scored eight victories in the American Le Mans Series (ALMS) on this track. Successful on five occasions was the Audi R8 LMP race car that gave its name to Audi's subsequent road-going sports car. Therefore, Audi Sport customer racing is offering an exhibition to local fans that includes the race car from those days and the current production model, while the fans will see the Audi R8 LMS GT3 race car that is based on it on the race track.

The race drivers love the 3.6-kilometer circuit nestled in the picturesque scenery of Monterey County. Fast sections, significant vertical differences and the "Corkscrew" section as one of the most famous turns in worldwide racing make high demands on the drivers. The challenging track will be 60 years old this year.

Three customer teams in total are competing in the California 8 Hours in the Audi R8 LMS. Factory-supported are Audi Sport Team Land and Audi Sport Team Magnus. The squad of Wolfgang Land from Niederdreisbach, Germany, will be racing with Californian driver Connor De Phillippi and the two Germans Christopher Haase and Christopher Mies. Audi Sport Team Magnus from Salt Lake City, Utah, is factory-supported for the first time and relies on the two Germans Pierre Kaffer and Markus Winkelhock, plus the South African Kelvin van der Linde. Winkelhock, van der Linde, De Phillippi and Mies in the Audi R8 LMS jointly won the 24 Hours of Nürburgring and Winkelhock and Haase the 24 Hours of Spa this year.

One privateer team completes the lineup. Belgian Audi Club Team WRT is putting an Audi R8 LMS on the grid for Dutchman Robin Frijns and Britons Jake Dennis and Stuart Leonard. In



September, Frijns and Leonard with the team of Vincent Vosse won the Blancpain GT Series Sprint Cup, the most important GT sprint racing series in Europe.

“We look forward to the first visit of the Intercontinental GT Challenge to the United States,” says Chris Reinke, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. “With three teams and our driver lineup we’re in a very good position. Our aim is to maintain the lead of the standings on this legendary track.” Audi is the title defender in the Intercontinental GT Challenge and after two of four rounds is leading the GT3 manufacturers’ classification with a nine-point advantage. Christopher Haase in the top spot of the drivers’ standings is one point ahead of five drivers tied on points in position two – including Jules Gounon and Audi Sport driver Markus Winkelhock. Following two free practice, a pre-qualifying and a qualifying session, plus a Super Pole shootout, the race will be run on Sunday, October 15, from 9.30 AM to 5.30 PM local time.

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In 2016, the Audi Group delivered to customers about 1.868 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 3,457 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and 55,451 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2016 fiscal year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of €59.3 billion and an operating profit of €3.1 billion. At present, approximately 88,000 people work for the company all over the world, more than 60,000 of them in Germany. Audi focuses on sustainable products and technologies for the future of mobility.