



Motorsport Communications

Virginia Brusch

Phone: +49 841 89-41753

E-mail: virginia.brusch@audi.de

www.audi-mediacycenter.com

World RX: Ekström Vice-Champion

- **Mattias Ekström finishes 3rd in season finale in Cape Town**
- **Swede 2nd in the drivers' classification, EKS third in the teams' classification**
- **Ekström: "We weren't fast enough today to win"**

Cape Town, November 12, 2017 – Mattias Ekström has clinched the FIA World Rallycross Championship runner-up slot. At the season finale in Cape Town, the Swede took third place and in doing so snatched second place in the overall standings from Petter Solberg, even though Ekström contested one race less than the Norwegian due to a clash of dates with the DTM. The previously crowned World Champion Johan Kristoffersson won the race in South Africa. EKS is third in the teams' classification.

The World Rallycross Championship premiere in South Africa World greatly impressed. Packed grandstands and exciting races to the end – the last event of the season was the best advertisement for rallycross. "That was a tremendous weekend," said Ekström with a smile. "Obviously we always want to win, but unfortunately we weren't fast enough in the final. Second place in the overall standings is good, but at the end of the day also only the first loser. Even so I'll celebrate this success with the team and look forward to the winter break after the long season."

In Cape Town, Toomas Heikkinen made the semi-final for the eleventh time this season. The Finn started the race from the last row and finished sixth. "It wasn't a bad year," summarized Heikkinen. "It's important for the future to make the final more often and then to fight for trophies." Reinis Nitišs had a weekend to forget in the third Audi S1 EKS RX quattro. Following a puncture on Saturday, on Sunday the Latvian had to forget any hope of making the semi-final after a collision. "That was a frustrating end to a mixed season," mentioned Nitišs. "After a good start there were essentially no real highlights to report from the fourth round onwards."

A successful 2017 season concluded in South Africa for Audi and EKS. Mattias Ekström won four of the twelve races and finished third again to finish the year. In addition, Toomas Heikkinen took another podium position after finishing third at the Estering. On eleven of the twelve race weekends at least one driver in an Audi S1 EKS RX quattro made the final for the fastest six drivers. World Championship runner-up Ekström won 23 of his 75 races. With ten race wins to his name, the Swede, along with Petter Solberg, is the most successful driver in rallycross history.



FIA World Rallycross Championship 2017 – round 12, Cape Town – Result Final

1 Johan Kristoffersson (S)	4m 23.751s
2 Timmy Hansen (S)	+0.918s
3 Mattias Ekström (S)	+2.951s
4 Petter Solberg (N)	+3.417s
5 Timo Scheider (D)	+5.438s
6 Kevin Hansen (S)	+6 laps

Drivers' standings FIA World Rallycross Championship 2017 (final standings after 12 races)

1 Johan Kristoffersson (S)	316 points (World Champion 2017)
2 Mattias Ekström (S)	255 points
3 Petter Solberg (N)	252 points
4 Sébastien Loeb (F)	214 points
5 Timmy Hansen (S)	201 points
:	
7 Toomas Heikkinen (FIN)	125 points
14 Reinis Nitišs (LV)	71 points

Team standings FIA World Rallycross Championship 2017 (final standings after 12 races)

1 PSRX Volkswagen Sweden	544 points (World Champion 2017)
2 Team Peugeot Hansen	415 points
3 EKS	380 points
4 Hoonigan Racing Division	306 points

Further information and contents

- [Info about Audi's commitment to the World Rallycross Championship](#)
- [Results and standings](#)
- [Photos](#)

– End –

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 12 countries. 100 percent subsidiaries of AUDI AG include Audi Sport GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy) and Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy).

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.