



**Communications Motorsport**

Virginia Brusch

Tel: +49 151 52817968

E-mail: [virginia.brusch@audi.de](mailto:virginia.brusch@audi.de)

[www.audi-mediacycenter.com/en](http://www.audi-mediacycenter.com/en)

## **Rallycross: podium for EKS Audi Sport in season opener**

- **Both Audi S1 EKS RX quattro in final at Barcelona**
- **Andreas Bakkerud takes third place in first event with Audi**
- **Mattias Ekström relegated to sixth position**

**Barcelona, April 15, 2018 – On contesting his first event for EKS Audi Sport in the FIA World Rallycross Championship, Andreas Bakkerud instantly achieved a podium result. In the turbulent season opener at Barcelona (Spain), the Norwegian took third place. His teammate, Mattias Ekström, was classified in sixth position following a sporting penalty.**

“EKS Audi Sport superbly supported me this weekend,” said Bakkerud following his 50th race in the World RX. “I very much enjoyed our cooperation even though I wasn’t able to fully exploit my potential yet at Barcelona. I’ve definitely got a lot more. I’m happy about position three but, obviously, there’s a bitter taste remaining because Mattias (Ekström) was subsequently stripped of his victory. This doesn’t change anything about the strong performance delivered by EKS Audi Sport which brought both cars into the final.”

In front of 30,000 spectators, Ekström in the racing debut of the second-generation Audi S1 EKS RX quattro, had crossed the finish line in a spectacular final in first place beating title defender Johan Kristoffersson in a Volkswagen by a narrow margin. Yet the Swede was deprived of his third consecutive victory at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya after 2016 and 2017. In the evening, Ekström was relegated from first to sixth position because he allegedly bumped Petter Solberg’s Volkswagen off track on the way to Turn 1.

“I don’t share this opinion, but respect the decision by the stewards of the meeting,” said Ekström. “I’m particularly sorry for the team that worked hard and well in winter. In the final, I had four fresh tires which made the difference. On the whole, the weekend was very exciting. In rain on Saturday, we were running well, only our starts weren’t fantastic. In dry conditions on Sunday, we were initially struggling a little with the starts too, but in the semi-finals and the final they worked well. That kept our chance for victory alive.”

The two race days in Spain could hardly have been any more diverse: pouring rain and mud on Saturday were followed by a brilliant blue sky and sunshine on Sunday.



### 2018 World RX – round 1 Barcelona – results of final

1 Johan Kristoffersson (S)	Volkswagen	4m 36.568s
2 Sébastien Loeb (F)	Peugeot	+ 1.215s
<b>3 Andreas Bakkerud (N)</b>	<b>Audi</b>	<b>+ 2.389s</b>
4 Niclas Grönholm (FIN)	Hyundai	+ 7.099s
5 Petter Solberg (N)	Volkswagen	+ 11.264s
<b>6 Mattias Ekström (S)</b>	<b>Audi</b>	<b>4m 36.039s (relegated)</b>

### 2018 FIA World RX drivers' standings (after 1 of 12 rounds)

1 Johan Kristoffersson (S)	Volkswagen	27 points
2 Petter Solberg (N)	Volkswagen	24 points
<b>3 Andreas Bakkerud (N)</b>	<b>Audi</b>	<b>20 points</b>
<b>4 Mattias Ekström (S)</b>	<b>Audi</b>	<b>19 points</b>
5 Niclas Grönholm (FIN)	Hyundai	18 points
6 Timmy Hansen (S)	Peugeot	16 points

### 2018 FIA World RX teams' standings (after 1 of 12 rounds)

1 PSRX Volkswagen Sweden	51 points
<b>2 EKS Audi Sport</b>	<b>39 points</b>
3 Team Peugeot Total	30 points

– 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 twelve 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 2017, the Audi Group delivered to customers about 1.878 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 3,815 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and 55,900 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2017 fiscal year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of €60.1 billion and an operating profit of €5.1 billion. At present, approximately 90,000 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.