



Motorsport Communications

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Audi driver Andreas Bakkerud's wild ride onto the podium

- **Third place for Bakkerud in Audi S1 EKS RX quattro**
- **Mattias Ekström fifth in US debut for World RX**

Austin, September 30, 2018 – Podium on US debut: during the first outing for the FIA World Rallycross Championship (World RX) in the USA, EKS Audi Sport scored its seventh top 3 result of the season. With temperatures over 30 degrees Celsius in Austin (Texas), both drivers in the Audi S1 EKS RX quattro reached the final for the best six. The Norwegian Andreas Bakkerud took third overall while team mate Mattias Ekström finished the final in fifth place after contact with an opponent.

Both EKS Audi Sport drivers had made their way into the final with strong performances in the preliminary races: team owner Mattias Ekström held second in the intermediate standings after the first day, and won third qualifying as well as the semi-final on Sunday. With consistently good times in the qualifying sessions and a third place in the semi-final, Andreas Bakkerud also made the final. In the decisive race for the best six, the Norwegian drove a flawless race in the hot and humid temperatures of over 30 degrees to finish third behind the two Volkswagen drivers Johan Kristoffersson and Petter Solberg.

“I’m delighted about the podium because the weekend was really hard. I started in the difficult outside lane in all the qualifying and we did our best together with EKS Audi Sport,” said Bakkerud. “Unfortunately here we were unable to beat Volkswagen. But it’s great to compete against the world’s best drivers. Congratulations to Johan Kristoffersson, who won the World Championship title here with races to spare. I’m looking forward to the next race in Buxtehude where I’ll continue to fight with Mattias (Ekström), Petter Solberg and Sébastien Loeb for the World Championship runner-up title.”

Mattias Ekström was not totally satisfied: after his victory in the semi-finale, the Swede started the decisive race from the front row, lost valuable seconds after a touch from Timmy Hansen and crossed the finish line in sixth place. After Hansen was given a time penalty, Ekström moved up to fifth place. “I’m definitely disappointed that I couldn’t get on the podium, we landed in the wall in a hard fought final and didn’t score many points,” said Ekström, who is still defending second place in the World Championship.



After the trip to the US, Audi travels in second place in the teams' classification to Germany, where in only two weeks (October 13 – 14) the eleventh and penultimate round of the season is held at the Estering near Hamburg.

FIA World Rallycross Championship 2018 – round 10, Austin – Result Final

1. Johan Kristoffersson (S)	Volkswagen	3m 31.118s
2. Petter Solberg (N)	Volkswagen	+0.600s
3. Andreas Bakkerud (N)	Audi	+1.695s
4. Sébastien Loeb (F)	Peugeot	+2.323s
5. Mattias Ekström (S)	Audi	+8.069s
6. Timmy Hansen (S)	Peugeot	+9.836s

Drivers' standings FIA World Rallycross Championship 2018 (after 10 of 12 races)

1. Johan Kristoffersson (S)	Volkswagen	281 points
2. Mattias Ekström (S)	Audi	204 points
3. Petter Solberg (N)	Volkswagen	202 points
4. Andreas Bakkerud (N)	Audi	200 points
5. Sébastien Loeb (F)	Peugeot	195 points

Team standings FIA World Rallycross Championship 2018 (after 10 of 12 races)

1. PSRX Volkswagen Sweden	483 points
2. EKS Audi Sport	404 points
3. Team Peugeot Total	358 points

– End –

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