



Communications Motorsport

Virginia Brusch

Tel: +49 151 52817968

E-mail: virginia.brusch@audi.de

www.audi-mediacycenter.com/en

Rallycross: Notorious first corner of Estering awaits EKS Audi Sport

- **Mattias Ekström returns to the place of his Rallycross title win**
- **Audi pilot travels to Estering race weekend ranking second in World RX**
- **Ekström: “Spectacular spot and one of the best on the World RX calendar”**

Neuburg a. d. Donau/Buxtehude, October 9, 2018 – This weekend (October 13/14), the FIA World Rallycross Championship (World RX) comes to Germany. For Audi driver Mattias Ekström and EKS Audi Sport, the Estering race track in Buxtehude is very special.

In 2017, Mattias Ekström won the German World Rallycross Championship round at Buxtehude; in 2016, the Swede took home an early title on this circuit with his Audi S1 EKS RX quattro. “It's one of the venues on the World RX calendar that I have the best memories of,” says Ekström. “The Estering will always have a special place in my heart.”

The short 925-meter course has impressed the Swede – particularly the hairpin bend after the start-finish straight. “It's a fantastic corner,” says the Audi driver. “You approach it at high speed, pull the handbrake hard and slide sideways. It's the most spectacular spot on the Estering and one of the best on the World RX calendar.”

In the other passages, overtaking is virtually impossible, and this makes the start at the Estering decisive. The entrance to the so-called Joker Lap, where the track surface changes from tarmac to gravel, is especially tricky: something that Ekström learned from experience. Because the passage ends just before the finish line, the winner at the Estering is often only decided when the checkered flag drops. In 2015, Ekström finished just 0.005 seconds behind Petter Solberg. It was the most closely-contested finish in the history of the World Rallycross Championship.

Similarly close is the current battle for second place in the drivers' championship behind the already crowned world champion Johan Kristoffersson from Sweden. With two rounds left on the calendar, Mattias Ekström (Audi/204 points), Petter Solberg (Volkswagen/202 points), Andreas Bakkerud (Audi/200 points) and Sébastien Loeb (Peugeot/195 points) are separated by just nine points. “Obviously, we all want the runner-up title,” says Ekström's teammate Andreas Bakkerud. “It's good to know that in recent years Audi has always done well at the Estering.”

SPORT1 broadcasts live from Buxtehude on Sunday (October 14) from 1.30 to 3 PM CEST on its main channel. Live streaming on www.sport1.de and coverage on SPORT1+ begin at 1 PM.



About Estering RX

Track	Estering in Buxtehude, 35 km southwest of Hamburg
Track length	0.925 km (Joker Lap: 0.890 km)
Surface	60 percent tarmac, 40 percent gravel
Turns	3 left, 6 right
Top speed	ca. 174 km/h
Race distance	4 laps (qualifying), 6 laps (semi-finals and finals)
Event hashtag	#EsteringRX

Schedule (local time, CEST)

Saturday, October 13

09.00	Free practice
12.00	Qualifying 1 (Q1)
14.00	Qualifying 2 (Q2)

Sunday, October 14

09.00	Warm-up
09.40	Qualifying 3 (Q3)
11.25	Qualifying 4 (Q4)
14.00	Semi-finals
14.35	Finals
14.50	Podium ceremony

– 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.