



**Communications Motorsport**

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## **Six-pack! Audi driver Rast wins DTM finale as well**

- **Own record topped: six DTM victories in a row for René Rast**
- **Audi driver in final race successfully battles for runner-up in the championship**
- **Head of Audi Motorsport Dieter Gass: “A fantastic way to close the season”**

**Hockenheim, October 14, 2018 – Six victories in a row! Audi driver René Rast won the season’s last race at the Hockenheimring as well, so topping his own record from the previous day. On Sunday, behind Mercedes-Benz driver Gary Paffett, the 31-year-old German from Audi Sport Team Rosberg secured the runner-up’s spot in the championship. The DTM’s new record man in the end was only lacking four points to successfully defend the title.**

“What an incredible year, what a comeback!” Rast said after the finale in which he still bumped Mercedes-Benz driver Paul Di Resta from second place in the overall classification. “I’m very proud of Audi Sport, Team Rosberg and of myself, too. We had a tough start to the season, but never gave up, kept improving the car and also made progress in terms of strategy. All of the Audi drivers worked together fantastically as a team. Only by doing so, was it possible to keep the title dream open up until the end. Ultimately, it wasn’t quite enough. That’s a little bit of a shame, but Gary (Paffett) and Mercedes-Benz deserved to win. They were strong throughout the whole year.”

Following Audi’s altogether difficult start to the season, Rast, after nine races and a deficit of 104 points, was ranked in a distant 15th position in the standings. However, the Audi driver managed to make up 100 points and won seven races. His triumph in the finale was particularly dominant: Rast took the lead with a perfect start from the front row, achieved a clear advantage and subsequently controlled the pace up until the finish.

Nico Müller and Robin Frijns from Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline made for maximum suspense in the final stage of the race: Both pitted late and on fresh tires made up position by position. “If the race had been one or two laps longer, we might have still managed to overtake Gary (Paffett) and could have made René (Rast) champion after all,” said Müller who crossed the finish line 1.7 seconds behind Paffett. “Even so, all of us can be proud of what we’ve still achieved. The final weekend with this fantastic crowd was simply mega. That clearly speaks for our sport, the championship and the DTM – I’m already looking forward to the future.”

Even before the race started, Audi made for a goose bumps moment in the full house of the Hockenheim Motodrom: An emotional film bidding farewell to Mercedes-Benz from the DTM, that can be watched on Audi Sport’s new YouTube channel, spontaneously triggered standing



ovations in the grandstands. In the finale, all six Audi RS 5 DTM cars ran with the inscription “SEE YOU!” emblazoned on the rear wings, in which the “O” was represented by a star. In addition, the brand honored the joint time in the DTM with a large banner at the Audi Race Lounge.

“It was a fantastic way to close the season for the DTM, as well as for Audi Sport with two tremendous races in front of a great crowd,” said Head of Audi Motorsport Dieter Gass. “I’m very proud of what we achieved this weekend. At the beginning of the season, we were out in the middle of nowhere and now we finished the season with six victories in succession by René (Rast). And there are no regrets: We gave our all and won both races. Following the difficult start to the season, the rest was no longer in our hands. My thanks go to the entire Audi Sport squad, our teams, drivers and partners. Congratulations, obviously, to Gary (Paffett) and Mercedes-Benz as well. It’s a shame that they won’t be defending the title anymore next year. But I’m convinced that we’ll continue to see great racing in the DTM.”

Audi Sport is already intensively working for the new DTM season that will open on May 4/5, 2019. The new two-liter four-cylinder turbo engine is already running in a test car of the Audi RS 5 DTM.

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