



Communications

Audi Sport customer racing

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Season finale at Laguna Seca, California: Three Audi R8 LMS with unique liveries

- **Special liveries of the GT3 sports cars: three cars, standing side by side, to sport the “Stars and Stripes” of the American flag**
- **Championship-winning team from the Pirelli World Challenge to race in GT4 class**

Neuburg a. d. Donau/Laguna Seca, October 19, 2018 – Audi will offer fans not just one but several treats at the Intercontinental GT Challenge (IGTC) finale in California from October 26 to 28: Besides the GT3 model, the GT4 version of the Audi R8 LMS and the Audi RS 3 LMS TCR race car will be on the grid at Laguna Seca for the California 8 Hours. In addition, the audience can look forward to a visual surprise: For the first time, the liveries of the three Audi GT3 sports cars will complement each other to create a total picture in the style of the American flag.

Title defender Audi adapts the IGTC idea not only in a sporting sense but visually as well: The only racing series with one round per continent stands for international competition with strong local emphasis. The track at Laguna Seca has been a synonym for a great sports car tradition in global racing. The fluid track configuration and sections such as the famous Corkscrew combination of turns are popular with drivers, fans and photographers. Audi clinched eight sports car victories in the era of the Le Mans sports prototypes at Laguna Seca between 2000 and 2008, and in 2017, won the inaugural event of the California 8 Hours with the R8 LMS. Now the brand is returning to California with exceptional liveries: When the three Audi R8 LMS cars are standing side by side the fans can recognize the Stars and Stripes of the American flag on the body surfaces. “We’ll only unveil this surprise at the venue,” says Chris Reinke, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. “We’re sure that this unique design will fascinate the fans.”

Audi Sport Team Land is fielding a race car with Audi Sport drivers Christopher Haase/Kelvin van der Linde/Christopher Mies (D/ZA/D). Audi Sport Team WRT is traveling to America with Audi factory driver Robin Frijns (NL), Audi Sport drivers Dries Vanthoor (B) and Markus Winkelhock (D), and Stuart Leonard/Sheldon van der Linde/Alex Riberas (GB/ZA/E). Title defender Markus Winkelhock and his compatriot Christopher Haase are currently trailing the front runners in the standings by 18 points. 25 points are awarded for victory. In the manufacturers’ classification, Audi is separated from Mercedes-AMG by a nine-point gap. Each brand can still score a maximum of 43 points. In the series that has been held since 2016, Audi with its drivers remained unbeaten in the manufacturers’ and drivers’ classifications for two consecutive years.



In addition to the GT3 sports cars, the GT4 class and the TCR category are enhancing the California 8 Hours this year. Seven marques are represented in the GT4 field for production-based sports cars. The two customer teams GMG Racing and Rearden Racing rely on the Audi R8 LMS GT4. GMG Racing team principal and driver James Sofronas is sharing the cockpit with Jason Bell and Andrew Davis. Sofronas, since August, has won three drivers' titles plus the teams' title in the Pirelli World Challenge with the Audi R8 LMS GT4. They marked the first championship wins of Audi Sport customer racing's most recent race car that subsequently won titles in the European Championship and in France as well. Team Rearden Racing is fielding two of these race cars and has signed the driver pairings of Jeff Kearn/Vesko Kozarov and Jeff Burton/Jessica Burton/James Burke. Finally, Team M1GT Racing is putting an Audi RS 3 LMS for Walt Bowlin/Jerimy Daniel/Lars Viljoen on the grid. The TCR race car won its class in North America in the Pirelli World Challenge in 2017. In 2018, it won the TCR classification in the IMSA Continental Tire SportsCar Challenge.

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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.