



Communications

Audi Sport customer racing

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Audi Sport customer racing realigns WTCR commitment for 2020

- **World Cup involvement to be handled exclusively as a customer racing program going forward**

Neuburg a. d. Donau, December 11, 2019 – After two years in the WTCR – FIA World Touring Car Cup, Audi Sport customer racing is realigning its commitment. The company is pursuing plans to retain the presence of the Audi RS 3 LMS on the world’s highest-level TCR stage in the 2020 season, albeit as part of an all-privateer program.

“The FIA WTCR has evolved into an international stage and we’ve been part of it from day one. Since last year, we’ve clinched 25 podium finishes including seven victories,” says Chris Reinke, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. “A big thank you for this goes to our four drivers, Niels Langeveld, Gordon Shedden, Jean-Karl Vernay and Frédéric Vervisch, as well as to Comtoyouteam Audi Sport, Leopard Racing Team Audi Sport and our partners. Now the time has come to open a new chapter.” Audi Sport customer racing has reorganized its customer racing program, fully focusing its strategic commitments on GT3 racing going forward, and planning an ambitious international program on five continents for the 2020 season.

In the TCR touring car category, customer teams will continue to field the Audi RS 3 LMS on national and international levels worldwide. Audi has built 180 of these cars that are equally popular today in South and North America as in Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. This season alone, the entry-level touring car has contested 312 races since January and clinched 226 podium finishes including 78 victories. Since the project was launched, customers have celebrated seven overall drivers’ titles and 23 class wins in further categories. As a result, the Audi RS 3 LMS also won the worldwide “TCR Model of the Year” classification last year. This year, the touring car with the four rings has good chances of defending this title. The crucial event will be the 2019 FIA WTCR finale in Malaysia from December 13 to 15 where the last points will be awarded. Comtoyouteam Audi Sport with Frédéric Vervisch and Niels Langeveld as well as Leopard Racing Team Audi Sport with Jean-Karl Vernay and Gordon Shedden will be competing there.

“After having set an initial direction for 2020 together with our partners, we hope that the Audi RS 3 LMS will compete in the WTCR again next year,” says Chris Reinke. “Comtoyouteam Racing from Belgium has expressed interest in competing in the WTCR again in 2020. We would very much



welcome this and wish Jean-Michel Baert and his team that this idea will become a reality.”

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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 18 locations in 13 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 2018, the Audi Group delivered to customers about 1.812 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 5,750 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and 53,004 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.
