



Communications

Audi Sport customer racing

Eva-Maria Becker

Tel: +49 841 89-33922

E-mail: eva-maria.becker@audi.de

www.audi-mediacycenter.com/en

Mixed feelings for Audi Sport customer racing in WTCR finale

- **All four Audi Sport drivers with fortune and misfortune in Malaysia**
- **Third position by Frédéric Vervisch as best race result**

Sepang/Neuburg a. d. Donau, December 15, 2019 – In the WTCR – FIA World Touring Car Cup finale in Malaysia, all four drivers of Audi Sport customer racing experienced a roller coaster ride in the qualifying sessions and the races. Fightbacks in all three races showed what was possible, but unfavorable grid positions and racing misfortune shaped Audi’s weekend. For instance, a defect before the start prevented a possible podium finish by Frédéric Vervisch in the second of three races. In the end, third position claimed by the Belgian in the last race remained as the best result for the Audi RS 3 LMS at Sepang.

“At the close of the season, we’d have wished for a better result, which definitely would have been possible,” says Chris Reinke, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. “However, a whole range of factors caused each of our cars to lose ground during the course of the weekend. Our four drivers, Niels Langeveld, Gordon Shedden, Jean-Karl Vernay and Frédéric Vervisch, showed a strong fighting spirit up until the end – many thanks to them for that.” Frédéric Vervisch was the driver with both the best chances and the greatest misfortune. Having entered the first race from fifth on the grid, the Belgian from Comtoy Team Audi Sport retired when a slow puncture forced him to pit. He was looking forward to the second race with eager anticipation after having clinched third on the grid as the best qualifying result of all Audi Sport drivers. However, on the way to the grid, he noticed a defective drive shaft which the team was no longer able to replace in time. Consequently, he subsequently started from the pit lane, was handed a drive-through penalty for exceeding the duration of the repair during the starting formation and in the end finished only in position 25. In the third race, Vervisch showed what was possible: from eighth on the grid he attacked on a wet track and finished in fourth, directly in front of Norbert Michelisz, the new World Cup winner. Afterwards, the original third-placed competitor received a sports penalty, so that Vervisch moved up to third place. Niels Langeveld from Comtoy Team Audi Sport achieved 15th position in the second race as his best result of the weekend.

In Leopard Racing Team Audi Sport, Jean-Karl Vernay and Gordon Shedden were pleased about several successful fightbacks as well. From the 18th spot on the grid, Vernay improved to tenth in the first race, running on slicks on the front and rain tires on the rear wheels on a drying track.



His Scottish teammate Shedden did a good job of coping with the same tire choice on the slippery tarmac as well, won seven positions and finished in 15th place. In the second race, Vernay managed the leap from 18th position to 14th in the rain and in the third sprint even from 20th to tenth.

After two years, Audi Sport customer racing's official program in the FIA WTCR has ended. Audi's drivers and teams jointly clinched 26 podium finishes, including seven victories, during this period. The Audi RS 3 LMS will continue to be present in motorsport worldwide going forward. Audi Sport has produced 180 of these race touring cars, which are successful in the customer's hand in North and South America, across Europe, in Asia, Australia and New Zealand, having claimed 78 victories and a total of 227 podium finishes in just this year.

- 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 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.
