



Audi RS Q e-tron being put through its paces under the Spanish sun

- **Prototype for Dakar Rally completes eight-day test**
- **All three Audi Sport driver teams deployed**
- **Up to 180 km/h at a maximum of 34 degrees centigrade in the shade**

Zaragoza, August 7, 2021 – On the way to its debut at the Dakar Rally in January 2022, the team of Audi Sport has taken another important step: The new Audi RS Q e-tron completed an eight-day endurance test in sweltering heat in Spain on gravel sections of the kind typically used in cross-country rallies.

The roll-out in Neuburg an der Donau on June 30th was an initial functional check for the innovative rally car. A test in the area of Magdeburg in mid-July was focused on gathering initial experiences on unpaved ground. Now the first test in realistic conditions followed at a test area near the Spanish city of Zaragoza.

All three of Audi Sport's driver teams took part in the test in Aragon. Dakar record winner Stéphane Peterhansel and his co-driver Edouard Boulanger drove the first stint from Friday to Sunday. Mattias Ekström and Emil Bergkvist took over the Audi RS Q e-tron on Monday for the next two test days. Carlos Sainz and Lucas Cruz concluded the intensive trials from Wednesday to Friday.

The three driver teams were obviously impressed with the handling and reliability of the futuristic SUV on the fast gravel sections. "For a first test in proper conditions for the car I'm really happy how the car behaves already," said Carlos Sainz on behalf of his fellow drivers. "I had a really good feeling straight away. Of course, there is fine-tuning to be done – but the starting point is good."

On the up to 17 kilometer long gravel sections, the Audi RS Q e-tron achieved a top speed of 180 km/h. In addition, temperatures of up to 34 degrees centigrade in the shade marked an initial litmus test for the cooling concept of the complex vehicle.

"This test was focused on getting in as much driving as possible and detecting weak spots," development engineer Arnau Niubó Bosch said after more than 1,700 test kilometers in extremely harsh conditions. "The next test in September will take us into the dunes for the first time."

The Audi RS Q e-tron uses an all-electric powertrain with two motor-generator units (MGU) from Formula E. The high-voltage battery that has been newly developed by Audi Sport is recharged while driving via an energy converter consisting of the efficient TFSI engine from the DTM and another MGU.



Motorsport Communications

Stefan Moser
Head of Motorsport Communications
Tel.: +49 152 57713467
E-mail: stefan1.moser@audi.de
www.audi-mediacenter.com/en

Motorsport Communications

Virginia Bruschi
Spokeswoman Dakar Rally
Tel.: +49 841 89-41753
E-mail: virginia.bruschi@audi.de



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 19 locations in 12 countries. 100 percent subsidiaries of AUDI AG include Audi Sport GmbH (Neckarsulm, Germany), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy), and Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna/Italy).

In 2020, the Audi Group delivered to customers about 1.693 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 7,430 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and 48,042 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2020 fiscal year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of €50.0 billion and an operating profit before special items of €2.7 billion. At present, 87,000 people work for the company all over the world, 60,000 of them in Germany. With new models, innovative mobility offerings and other attractive services, Audi is becoming a provider of sustainable, individual premium mobility.
