



Communications Motorsport

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Audi race experience customers and pros look forward to Nürburgring 24 Hours

- **Second run by Audi race experience at endurance classic**
- **Two new Audi R8 LMS ultra cars in the field**
- **Premier driving experience for customers and pros**

Ingolstadt, April 23, 2012 – When the starting flag is lowered for the 40th running of the Nürburgring 24 Hours at 16:00 on May 19 suspense will reach a peak at Audi race experience. Pros and customers are set on battling for good results with two new Audi R8 LMS ultra cars at Germany’s toughest endurance race.

This year marks the second time for the Audi race experience to provide its customers with a fascinating adventure. Like last year, amateurs with a knack for performance driving have the opportunity to compete alongside professional racers at the marathon run on the Nordschleife. The 24-hour race is the pinnacle of an attractive endurance season in this arguably unique offering made by an automobile manufacturer. It is complemented by runs at the VLN races on April 28, June 23, August 4 and October 27. In addition, the Audi race experience for the past two years has been offering customers with sporting ambitions an attractive and avidly used platform with the Audi R8 LMS that features incentive and driving events.

“Competing in the brand new Audi R8 LMS ultra at Germany’s major race is a special incentive for our customers,” says Josef “Sepp” Haider, the sporting director of the Audi race experience.

The seasoned endurance racing campaigner Christian Bollrath from Löhne, who is the managing director of the North American branch of a company for lighting products, is running for the second time. He is sharing the cockpit with Pierre Ehret. The experienced sports car racer from Tegernsee has been active in motorsport since 1994 and has contested many major racing classics. The Briton Peter Venn brings 30 years of racing experience from formula, sports and touring car categories to the field. The entrepreneur has already celebrated more than 20 group and class



victories at the Nürburgring. They are racing alongside a former Audi factory driver: Marco Werner is a three-time Le Mans winner and representative of the Audi race experience, who has also spent many years in his international sports car career on the Nordschleife. Since the customer sports project was launched in the 2009 season the native of Dortmund has contested all the Audi R8 LMS commitments at the Nürburgring 24 Hours.

The second Audi R8 LMS ultra of the Audi race experience is shared by an international professional team. Luca Cappellari from Italy has been active in motorsport since 1977 and won the 2004 FIA GT Championship. Last year, he came to know the Audi R8 LMS at a VLN race. Alex Yoong from Malaysia, who was a Formula 1 driver between 2001 and 2002, was part of the Audi race experience line-up at the Nürburgring last year and at the 2011 Sepang 12 Hours drove an Audi R8 LMS of the WRT team. Florian Gruber from Vilsbiburg is an instructor of the Audi race experience and holds a record for road-going vehicles on the Nordschleife. Warren Luff completes the quartet. The Australian was on the grid twice at the Bathurst 12 Hours in the Audi R8 LMS and finished there as the runner-up with the Audi race experience in 2011. He is currently competing in an Audi R8 LMS in the Australian GT Championship. The pro who has the longest journey traveling to the event knows the “Green Hell” from several previous commitments in the Nürburgring 24 Hours since the 1990s.

“We’re sure that with our line-up we’re offering our customers as well as the many fans along the Nordschleife a very good program,” says Sepp Haider. “I hope that the crowd, like every year, will share our racing spirit with us again in 2012. Now, if we’ve got that necessary piece of racing luck then we’ll see a nice and thrilling competition and prove the special appeal of the Audi race experience again this year.”

The Audi race experience at the 2012 Nürburgring 24 Hours

Luca Cappellari (I)/Florian Gruber (D)/Warren Luff (AUS)/Alex Yoong (MAL)
Christian Bollrath (D)/Pierre Ehret (D)/Peter Venn (GB)/Marco Werner (D)

– End –



The Audi Group delivered 1,302,659 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2011. In 2011 the Company posted revenue of €44.1 billion and an operating profit of €5.3 billion. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). The Audi Q7 is built in Bratislava (Slovakia). In July 2010, CKD production of the Audi Q5 was added to the existing Audi A4 and A6 manufacturing operations in Aurangabad (India). At the Brussels plant, production of the Audi A1 has been running since May 2010, while production of the new A1 Sportback began in 2012. The Audi Q3 has been built in Martorell (Spain) since June 2011. The Company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG's wholly owned subsidiaries include AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft., Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese (Italy), AUDI BRUSSELS S.A./N.V. in Brussels (Belgium) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Subject to a positive decision by the responsible competition authorities, the Italian sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. will also belong to the Audi Group. Audi currently employs around 64,000 people worldwide, including around 48,000 in Germany. Between 2012 and 2016 the brand with the four rings is planning to invest a total of €13 billion – mainly in new products and the extension of production capacities – in order to sustain the Company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" slogan. Audi is currently expanding its site in Győr (Hungary) and will start production in Foshan (China) in late 2013 and in Mexico in 2016.

Audi has long been fulfilling its social responsibility on many levels – with the aim of making the future worth living for generations to come. The basis for Audi's lasting success is therefore formed by environmental protection, the conservation of resources, international competitiveness and a forward-looking human resources policy. One example of AUDI AG's commitment to environmental issues is the Audi Environmental Foundation. Within the context of "Vorsprung durch Technik," which extends far beyond its products, the Company is directing its activities toward a major goal – comprehensive CO₂-neutral mobility.