



**Communications Motorsport**

Jürgen Pippig

Telephone: +49 (0)841 89 34200

E-mail: [motorsport-media@audi.de](mailto:motorsport-media@audi.de)

[www.audi-motorsport.info](http://www.audi-motorsport.info)

## **Audi in the role of the hunter at the Norisring**

- **Grid positions four, five and six at the DTM home round**
- **Extremely small time gaps in qualifying**
- **Martin Tomczyk best Audi driver**

**Ingolstadt/Nuremberg, July 3, 2010 – Audi will start into Sunday’s DTM race at the Norisring in the role of the hunter. On the so far hottest day of the year Martin Tomczyk, Mattias Ekström and Oliver Jarvis (all from Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline) clinched grid positions four, five and six for Audi.**

The merely 2.3-kilometer city street circuit between the Dutzendteich lake and the Frankenstadion sports arena has always been difficult territory for the Audi A4 DTM. And this time again the Audi drivers are facing an extremely demanding task. “Unfortunately, we didn’t manage to work out a better starting base for the race,” commented Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich after the qualifying sessions. “At the Norisring, simply everything has got to perfectly fit together – and that wasn’t the case with us today. But everything is still possible from rows two and three on the grid.”

After posting the fastest times in both free practice sessions the Audi drivers suggested the potential of the Audi A4 DTM at the Norisring in qualifying as well. Mattias Ekström at 48.334s managed to set the absolutely fastest time of the whole qualifying in the second segment (Q2). Posting a time of 48.379s, Martin Tomczyk in second place in Q3 was just a blink slower. But at the crucial moment neither of the two Audi drivers managed to repeat his performance.

Mattias Ekström came into the pits in Q3 sure of not being able to further improve his time and having made it into Q4. But the Swede was relegated to fifth place and missed Q4 by just 40 thousandths of a second. Martin Tomczyk was the only Audi driver to manage the leap into the top four but touched the wall at the exit of the S-Corner after a strong first sector. “I was surprised that my rear tires had absolutely



no grip,” said Tomczyk. “But considering that I’ve always had a rough time at the Norisring it was nice to even make it into Q4 at all. So far the weekend’s been going pretty well for me.”

Tomczyk will tackle the 82-lap race from row two, spearheading the Audi squad. Immediately behind him two other Audi drivers, Mattias Ekström and Oliver Jarvis, are lying in wait. With Timo Scheider on position ten, all four Audi A4 DTM cars of Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline are starting from top 10 positions.

Alexandre Prémat (Audi Sport Team Phoenix) and Markus Winkelhock (Audi Sport Team Rosberg) in the fastest 2008-specification Audi A4 DTM cars will start to the race from row six. Prémat posted the fastest time of the whole weekend so far in Saturday morning’s free practice at 48.289s.

Katherine Legge, who managed to drive the fastest race lap at the Norisring last year, missed qualifying for Q2 by a mere 16 thousandths of a second. Le Mans winner Mike Rockenfeller and DTM rookie Miguel Molina had to settle for grid positions 16 and 18.

Considering the fact that the entire field in Q1 was lying within just 516 thousandths of a second in Q1 even the drivers on the rear rows of the grid can expect to have chances and the fans can look forward to a particularly gripping race. “At Le Mans I learned that one must never give up,” said Mike Rockenfeller. “And for tomorrow thunderstorms have been predicted, which might change the whole situation again.”

ARD will broadcast the race live on “Das Erste” starting at 1:45 p.m. (local time).

The Audi Group sold around 950,000 cars of the Audi brand in 2009. The Company posted revenue of €29.8 billion and an operating profit of €1.6 billion. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). Aurangabad in India saw the start of CKD production of the Audi A6 at the end of 2007 and of the Audi A4 in early October 2008. Production of the new Audi A1 has been running at the Brussels plant since May 2010. The Company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG’s wholly owned subsidiaries include AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft., Automobili Lamborghini Holding S.p.A. in Sant’Agata Bolognese (Italy) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi currently employs around 58,000 people worldwide, including 45,500 in Germany. Between 2010 and 2012 the Audi Group is planning to invest around €5.5 billion, mainly in new products, in order to sustain the Company’s technological lead embodied in its “Vorsprung durch Technik” slogan. By 2015, Audi plans to increase the number of models in its portfolio to 42.

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 newly established Audi Environmental Foundation.