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## **Three Audi A5 DTM cars on the two front rows of the grid tomorrow**

- **Edoardo Mortara is quickest Audi driver at the Nürburgring**
- **200<sup>th</sup> DTM race for Audi**
- **“Heat battle” and full stands**

**Ingolstadt/Nürburg, August 18, 2012 – Audi has worked out a good starting base for the upcoming “heat battle” of the DTM at the Nürburgring. After a strong qualifying performance, three Audi A5 DTM cars will start from the two front rows on Sunday (live on “Das Erste” starting at 13:45 local time).**

It is the 200<sup>th</sup> DTM race for the brand with the Four Rings and expected to be one of the hottest. After the thermometer showed over 30 degrees as early as in the battle for the best grid positions and track temperatures heated up to more than 45 degrees, the race on Sunday in front of completely filled stands is expected to become even hotter. “This will be an extremely tough race for everyone,” Audi Head of Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich is convinced. “But with three vehicles on the two front rows of the grid we’ve got a good starting base. The result also shows that the work of the past weeks and months is bearing fruit. All of our drivers are making very positive statements here about their cars.”

At the DTM’s first event after the summer break, Audi left a strong impressions right from the first practice session on Friday that was confirmed on Saturday. With 1m 23.950s, Mike Rockenfeller in the Schaeffler Audi A5 DTM of Audi Sport Team Phoenix that is based at the Nürburgring drove the fastest qualifying time in Q3. In Q4, though, the Le Mans winner made a mistake in the first sector that caused him to drop to fourth place. “Without that, pole would have been possible,” said “Rocky.” “The car was superb today.”

Edoardo Mortara (Playboy Audi A5 DTM) and Filipe Albuquerque (TV Movie Audi A5 DTM) did not manage any perfect laps in the crucial last qualifying segment either but secured grid positions two and three for Audi Sport Team Rosberg nonetheless. “I’m happy to be on the front row but I made too many small mistakes in this



qualifying session – including in Q4,” said Edoardo Mortara. “I’m sure that with a good lap we could have clinched the pole position today. But it’s still a great result for Audi Sport Team Rosberg. We were the best two Audi drivers today and are starting from positions two and three. This means we’ve got good chances in the race tomorrow.”

The quickest driver of Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline was Timo Scheider, who at the wheel of the AUTO TEST Audi A5 DTM posted the tenth-best time. Mattias Ekström in the Red Bull Audi A5 DTM will be starting into the race alongside leader of the standings Gary Paffett from grid position twelve. Last year’s winner, who most recently took the pole position at the Nürburgring two consecutive times and is currently the Audi driver with the best points score in the overall standings, had to stop his fastest lap at the end of Q2 due to yellow flags.

Miguel Molina (Red Bull Audi A5 DTM) and Adrien Tambay (Audi ultra A5 DTM) took positions 13 and 16. Tambay lost valuable track time in the morning due to a defective generator.

A strong performance was shown by Rahel Frey (E-POSTBRIEF Audi A5 DTM). On the track on which she won a Formula 3 race in 2009 she barely missed making it into Q2 by 0.018 seconds. By taking grid position 17, the Swiss achieved her best qualifying result so far in the 2012 season.

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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 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 amongst others AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft. (Győr/Hungary), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese/Italy), AUDI BRUSSELS S.A./N.V. (Brussels/Belgium), quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm and the sports bike manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna/Italy). Audi currently employs around 65,000 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" claim. 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 CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral mobility.