



**Communications Motorsport**

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## **Audi reduces gap in qualifying at Fuji**

- **Marcel Fässler/André Lotterer/Benoît Tréluyer third in fastest Audi**
- **Lucas di Grassi/Loïc Duval/Oliver Jarvis in fourth place**
- **Audi makes up one second in lap times**

**Ingolstadt/Fuji, October 10, 2015 – Audi came closer to the top in qualifying for round six of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) in Japan. While the gap to the fastest time in the previous event amounted to 1.3 seconds, the best Audi R18 e-tron quattro trailed the leader in qualifying by just a little less than three tenths of a second at Fuji.**

“The many sports car fans in Japan can look forward to a thrilling race,” said Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich following the final qualifying session. “Our developments since the summer have paid off.” For the race at Fuji, Audi developed a modified body based on its efficiency aerodynamics. It combines low drag with good downforce levels.

André Lotterer and Benoît Tréluyer in the number ‘7’ Audi R18 e-tron quattro achieved a combined lap time of 1m 23.082s – corresponding to grid position three and a gap of 0.319 seconds to the top. “Our car felt good,” said Tréluyer, who posted the best time of all Audi drivers. “The set-up is well-balanced. The team did a good job.”

The number ‘8’ Audi trailed the sister car with a gap of 163 thousandths of a second. “We managed to make a good step since Le Mans,” said Loïc Duval. “In the past, the track at Fuji didn’t suit us so well. That makes being so close on Porsche’s heels even sweeter.”

Chris Reinke, Head of LMP at Audi Sport, looks toward round six of the season that will start on Sunday at 11.00, local time, with optimism: “Audi is back again. Qualifying was spectacular. Positions kept shifting all the way up to the end. The narrow gaps give rise to hope for a good race.”

In Germany, the race will be broadcast in full on Sunday, October 11, from 04.00 to



10.15 (CEST) by Eurosport. Frank Biela, a five-time Le Mans winner with Audi, will be one of the co-commentators of the program.

### **Qualifying results**

- 1 Bernhard/Hartley/Webber (Porsche) 1m 22.763s
- 2 Dumas/Jani/Lieb (Porsche) 1m 23.071s
- 3 Fässler/Lotterer/Tréluyer (Audi R18 e-tron quattro) 1m 23.082s
- 4 Di Grassi/Duval/Jarvis (Audi R18 e-tron quattro) 1m 23.245s
- 5 Buemi/Davidson/Nakajima (Toyota) 1m 25.072s
- 6 Conway/Sarrazin/Wurz (Toyota) 1m 25.327s
- 7 Abt/Imperatori/Kraihamer (Rebellion) 1m 28.492s
- 8 Beche/Prost (Rebellion) 1m 28.641s
- 9 Kaffer/Trummer (CLM-AER) 1m 30.740s
- 10 Bird/Canal/Rusinov (Ligier-Nissan) 1m 31.529s

– End –

In 2014, the Audi Group delivered approximately 1,741,100 cars of the Audi brand to its customers. The company achieved revenue of €53.8 billion and an operating profit of €5.15 billion in 2014. Audi operates globally in more than 100 markets and has production facilities in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Brussels (Belgium), Bratislava (Slovakia), Martorell (Spain), Kaluga (Russia), Aurangabad (India), Changchun and Foshan (China) as well as Jakarta (Indonesia). The brand with the Four Rings will start producing cars in Curitiba (Brazil) this year and in San José Chiapa (Mexico) in 2016. Wholly owned subsidiaries of AUDI AG include quattro GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy) and sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy). The company currently employs approximately 80,000 people worldwide, thereof around 58,000 in Germany. Total investment of about €24 billion is planned from 2015 to 2019 – primarily in new products and sustainable technologies. Audi is committed to its corporate responsibility and has anchored the principle of sustainability for its products and processes in its strategy. The long-term goal is CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral mobility.