



Communications Motorsport

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WEC finale: Audi to battle for third title

- **Eighth race of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) season in Bahrain**
- **Two driver squads still in WEC title race**
- **Region Middle East growth market for Audi**

Ingolstadt, November 13, 2015 – Audi has kept the decision in the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) open up to the finale. In Bahrain, the drivers from Audi Sport Team Joest will be battling with the Porsche drivers for the World Championship title on November 21.

Marcel Fässler, André Lotterer and Benoît Tréluyer, with seven podium places in succession, have maintained their chances for the championship title up to the end. In second place of the standings, they are traveling to Bahrain with a twelve-point deficit, with 26 points yet to be awarded in the island state. “This is arguably the most thrilling season of the FIA World Endurance Championship. The decision will only be made in the final race,” says Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “My thanks for this go to an untiring squad that has never given up, continued to develop the Audi R18 e-tron quattro, and worked hard.”

A statistical characteristic underscores the quality of this title race: no other driver squad has been on podium this year as often as Fässler/Lotterer/Tréluyer. They celebrated two victories, a second and four third places.

At the same time, Audi is aware of how difficult a feat winning an FIA WEC title for the third time after 2012 and 2013 will be. Even if Fässler/Lotterer/Tréluyer, as in 2012, were to lead an Audi one-two victory in Bahrain, such a result would not secure success in the championship for them. In this case, the current leaders of the standings, Timo Bernhard/Brendon Hartley/Mark Webber, would have to finish in no better than fourth place for the Audi drivers to claim the title. “We’re going to give everything and hope for a little fortune to still win the championship,” says Chris Reinke, Head of LMP at Audi Sport. “Giving up is out of the question for us – the opposite is true. As long as there’s a chance, we’re going to battle for the title. In



tough conditions such as those in Bahrain, quite a bit is possible.”

The race in the desert makes maximum demands on the technology and the drivers. The 5.412-kilometer track has four longer straights, followed by very tight corners. This results in hard braking maneuvers from near-300 km/h several times per lap. In addition, there are geographic and climatic demands that make the set-up of the race cars even more difficult. Sand from the surrounding desert impairs grip on the tarmac, with air temperatures between 25 and 30 degrees centigrade and track temperatures of 40 degrees being the rule. As the sun sets about two hours after the start, the 6-hour round as a night race under floodlights will be holding further imponderables in store. In Germany, the TV channel Eurosport will be airing live coverage of the title decision’s final stage. It can be watched on November 21 from 18.00 to 19.15.

Bahrain is part of the Region Middle East, an Audi growth market. Since 2010, Audi’s delivery volume, including the reporting year of 2014, has nearly doubled to 11,130 units. While Audi is battling for sporting honors of the 2015 season in Bahrain, an up-and-coming driver looks forward to a unique opportunity. A day following the finale, the FIA WEC, in collaboration with the leading teams, is making testing opportunities available to young talents. As a result, Richie Stanaway from New Zealand will be able to test the Audi R18 e-tron quattro as part of the FIA WEC’s rookie test program in Bahrain two days before his 24th birthday.

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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 CO₂-neutral mobility.