Winner on points: Team FAUtonOHM wins Audi Autonomous Driving Cup 2016

- New generation of engineers program Audi Q5 model cars
- Attractive prizes for the three top-placing teams
- Audi Board Member for Technical Development Dr. Stefan Knirsch: “Excellent achievements by these students give them a solid foundation for embarking on careers in research and product development.”

Ingolstadt, March 24, 2016 – This year’s prize for the best autonomous driving model car goes to Nuremberg. In the second edition of the Audi Autonomous Driving Cup, students at Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg and the technical college Nuremberg Georg Simon Ohm outscored teams from seven other colleges in a thrilling competition. The winners were happy to win prize money in the amount of 10,000 euros.

“We are very intentionally increasing the degree of difficulty from year to year, especially in the final round,” said Dr. (Engineering) Lars Mesow, member of the competition committee, about the performance of the eight college teams. “This new generation of talented students showed exceptional creativity and came up with unique solutions.” The Audi Q5 model cars equipped with ultrasonic sensors and video camera had to autonomously avoid obstacles, negotiate intersections and cross traffic and drive at a safe distance to flowing traffic ahead. The challenges also include executing a left turn across oncoming traffic, precision parking maneuvers and safe emergency braking when obstructions suddenly appeared.

The team FAUtonOHM impressed the jury with its overall performance. The students confidently mastered the driving tasks on the test course and presented their development work with sound scientific explanations. Second place, with a monetary award of 5,000 euros, went to the team KACADU of the Research Center Informatics Karlsruhe. The team MomenTUM of the Technical University Munich took third place and received, 1,000 euros in prize money. Andreas Reich, Head of Electronics Pre-Development at AUDI AG, congratulated the three top placed teams and presented the awards. “I want to express my great respect to all participants,” said Reich. “Anyone who already shows such enthusiasm for future issues such as piloted driving during their studies can expect some exciting career prospects.”
On the final day, Ricky Hudi, Head of Development Electrics/Electronics at AUDI AG, explained the benefits of highly precise digital maps and the future of Car-to-X communication. Audi demonstrated a typical use case in cooperation with experts from HERE. A model car detects an obstacle to traffic and stores this information on a real-time map. The information is then sent to a car that is following behind, which is able to pass through the hazard zone safely and easily. “Here we are showing, on a model scale, how swarm intelligence can work,” explained Dr. Stefan Knirsch, Audi Board Member for Technical Development at AUDI AG. “Real-time hazard warnings about glare ice, vehicle breakdowns and developing traffic jams give drivers valuable supplemental information and enhance traffic safety significantly.”

Today, static HD maps by HERE provide 3D models of the road, transportation infrastructure and environment that are accurate to the inch. The next step is to link the maps with real-time information from real traffic events. Cars acquire this information with their cameras, sensors and control systems and route the data, anonymized, to secure servers for processing and evaluation. From there, the information is immediately shared with other road users.

You can find more information and all of the results online at: www.audi-autonomous-driving-cup.com and www.audi-mediacenter.com

- End –

The Audi Group, with its brands Audi, Ducati and Lamborghini, is one of the most successful manufacturers of automobiles and motorcycles in the premium segment. It is present in more than 100 markets worldwide and produces at 16 locations in twelve countries. In the second half of 2016, the production of the Audi Q5 will start in San José Chiapa (Mexico). 100-percent subsidiaries of AUDI AG include quattro GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant’Agata Bolognese, Italy) and Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy).

In 2015, the Audi Group delivered to customers approximately 1.8 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 3,245 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and about 54,800 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2015 financial year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of €58.4 billion and an operating profit of €4.8 billion. At present, approximately 85,000 people work for the company all over the world, about 60,000 of them in Germany. Audi focuses on new products and sustainable technologies for the future of mobility.