



Communications Motorsport

Daniel Schuster

Tel: +49 841 89-38009

E-mail: daniel2.schuster@audi.de

www.audi-mediacyenter.com/en

Ekström shines at the DTM in Spielberg

- **Inspirational fightback: from eleventh on the grid to second at the flag**
- **Pole position and third place for Jamie Green**
- **Edoardo Mortara still second in the overall standings**

Ingolstadt/Spielberg, May 22, 2016 – The Red Bull Ring lent Mattias Ekström wings once again: after his convincing victory in the rain last year, he shone in Spielberg this time around in the scorching heat. In the second race on Sunday, the Swede drove impressively from eleventh on the grid to second at the wheel of the Red Bull Audi RS 5 DTM from Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline. Thanks to Jamie Green a second Audi driver mounted the podium.

For Ekström, the dream of a podium finish at one of his favorite tracks appeared just that after qualifying. On his fastest lap, the Audi driver was blocked by a competitor who was demoted five grid positions as a result. However, for Ekström the disadvantage was even bigger: instead of starting the race from one of the two front rows, he started from eleventh.

All the more remarkable was the comeback drive of the most experienced and successful active DTM driver: the Swede overtook several competitors, drove a long opening stint and returned to the track in third place after making his tire stop on lap 29. Nine laps later, he also overtook Jamie Green and crossed the finish line in second place to the cheers of the enthusiastic fans.

“Sometimes second place can feel like a win,” said Mattias Ekström after his comeback drive. “Today is such a day. The race was mega. Just a shame that we weren’t so good in qualifying here, otherwise a dream weekend with my friends from Red Bull could have been possible. Even so, it was fantastic racing today and I’m delighted for my team that worked so hard after the accident at the start yesterday in order to prepare the car perfectly again for me.”

The maiden podium finish of the season was also a relief for Jamie Green. After last year’s championship runner-up had not scored any points in the first three races, he put the Hoffmann Group Audi RS 5 DTM of Audi Sport Team Rosberg on pole



position by two thousandths of second on Sunday. For the Briton it was the tenth pole position of his DTM career, which he was initially able to convert at the start. On the second lap, he dropped behind the later winner Timo Glock in a BMW, six laps before the end of the race behind Mattias Ekström. Despite this, the Briton was delighted about his first podium result at the Red Bull Ring.

In the manufacturers' classification, Audi ousted Mercedes-Benz from second place on Sunday. Mike Rockenfeller (Schaeffler Audi RS 5 DTM) and Timo Scheider (AUTO BILD MOTORSPORT Audi RS 5 DTM) helped to achieve this. The two Audi Sport Team Phoenix drivers finished eighth and tenth. Both were involved in tough midfield battles as were Adrien Tambay (Speedweek.com Audi RS 5 DTM) and Miguel Molina (Teufel Audi RS 5 DTM) who both narrowly missed scoring points in eleventh and 14th positions.

Nico Müller (Playboy Audi RS 5 DTM) and Edoardo Mortara (Castrol EDGE Audi RS 5 DTM) did not see the checkered flag. Müller was touched at the back by Mercedes-Benz driver Robert Wickens on the second lap and landed in the same gravel bed as his team mate Edoardo Mortara did 22 laps later. The Italian moved up from fifth to third in the early stages of the race and had a good chance of claiming the championship lead. However, Mortara retired early following a collision with BMW driver António Félix da Costa. The Italian nevertheless remains second in the overall rankings and travels to the Lausitzring (June 4-5) only three points behind championship leader Paul Di Resta.

“The comeback drive from Mattias (Ekström) was of course excellent and Jamie (Green) also showed excellent form today,” said Dieter Gass, Head of DTM at Audi Sport. “It’s great that the two bounced back today after the difficult start to the season. When you consider Mattias’ race, it’s even more annoying that he was held up in qualifying, because otherwise he would definitely have been a potential winner today. Edo’s (Mortara) retiring is of course also bitter.”

– 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.