



**Communications Motorsport**

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## **Audi ready for 24 Hours of Spa**

- **Laurens Vanthoor best Audi driver on starting grid**
- **Five Audi cars in super pole qualifying**
- **Audi second-best brand in world's largest GT3 field**

**Ingolstadt/Spa, July 29, 2016 – Audi is pleased with its own performance after the super pole qualifying session for 24 Hours of Spa. Following impeccable and thorough preparation, the brand with the four rings presents itself as the second-best manufacturer in the field of the eleven automotive brands.**

In his home round, Laurens Vanthoor achieved the best performance of all Audi drivers. The Belgian in the Audi R8 LMS of Audi Sport Team WRT qualified for grid position seven. “My lap wasn’t completely perfect, but basically we made good use of our possibilities,” said the 2014 Spa winner. “Admittedly, there was a clear gap to the top. Now, it’s important for me and my teammates Nico Müller and René Rast to get through the race without any mistakes.”

The Frenchman Franck Perera in the Audi of Team I.S.R. Racing took eighth place and Christopher Haase (D) achieved position twelve for Saintéloc Racing. Directly trailing them, Robin Frijns (NL) qualified for Belgian Audi Club Team WRT and Christopher Mies (D) for Audi Sport Team Phoenix.

“All Audi customer teams intensively prepared for the GT3 race with the toughest competition of the year,” said Chris Reinke, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. “The forces are distributed to several teams. Thanks to our customers, we’re well set in terms of quantity and quality this year.”

Four teams with eleven race cars and 36 drivers are relying on the Audi R8 LMS in the Ardennes on the last weekend in July. Before the single timed laps in the super pole qualifying session on Friday, five other Audi teams took their grid positions in qualifying. Team Saintéloc Racing with the number 25 Audi is in position 25, making it the ninth-best team in the Pro-Am classification. Belgian Audi Club Team WRT took positions 27 (number 1), 43 (number 4) and 45 (number 3). I.S.R. Racing claimed position 36 with number 75. The number 27 Audi of Saintéloc Racing is in



grid position 50 of the overall classification as the third-best squad in the amateur class.

The 24 Hours of Spa will start on Saturday, July 30, at 16:30. Full-length live coverage of the race will be provided at [www.blancpain-gt-series.com](http://www.blancpain-gt-series.com).

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### **Qualifying results**

- 1 Maximilian Götz (Mercedes #86) 2m 17.651s
- 2 Clemens Schmid (Mercedes #85) 2m 18.025s
- 3 Felix Rosenqvist (Mercedes #88) 2m 18.034s
- 4 Maro Engel (Mercedes #00) 2m 18.223s
- 5 Maximilian Buhk (Mercedes #84) 2m 18.259s
- 6 Dani Juncadella (Mercedes #56) 2m 18.328s
- 7 Laurens Vanthoor (Audi #28) 2m 18.505s
- 8 Franck Perera (Audi #74) 2m 18.547s
- 9 Mirko Bortolotti (Lamborghini #16) 2m 18.691s
- 10 Maxime Soulet (Bentley #8) 2m 18.698s

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, the Audi Group 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.