



Communications Motorsport

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DTM front runners moving together even closer

- **Mattias Ekström best Audi driver in rain at Moscow on Saturday**
- **Jamie Green now only with four-point deficit in drivers' standings**
- **Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline recaptures lead of teams' standings**

Ingolstadt/Moscow, August 20, 2016 – Following the first of the two DTM races in Russia, the contenders at the top of the standings in all three classifications are moving together even closer. In the teams' classification, Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline recaptured first place at the Moscow Raceway on Saturday. In the manufacturers' classification, Audi is five and in the drivers' classification just four points short of the top spot on the leaderboard.

Rain determined the action on the race track near Moscow on Saturday. A preliminary decision was made in the morning's qualifying session. After Audi had been battling for pole position for a long time, Mattias Ekström in the Red Bull Audi RS 5 DTM of Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline in the end had to settle for grid position five as the best Audi driver, and the title hopefuls, Jamie Green (Hoffmann Group Audi RS 5 DTM/Audi Sport Team Rosberg) and Edoardo Mortara (Castrol EDGE Audi RS 5 DTM), even for positions ten and twelve.

Due to heavy rain, the race directors decided to send the field into the race behind the Audi R8 safety car. This meant that the Audi drivers had no opportunity to make up ground at the start. While Mattias Ekström defended his fifth place after the race was released, Jamie Green and Edoardo Mortara went on to battle their way forward to positions seven and eight in difficult conditions, which earned them valuable points. With Timo Scheider in the AUTO BILD MOTORSPORT Audi RS 5 DTM in position nine, Audi Sport Team Phoenix scored points as well.

"The championship has become even closer after this race," said Dieter Gass, Head of DTM at Audi Sport. "In the teams' classification, we're in front again, in the manufacturers' classification, we're trailing Mercedes-Benz by only five points and in the drivers' classification, Jamie (Green) merely has a four-point deficit separating him from Robert (Wickens). That'll be very exciting tomorrow. Following a less than perfect qualifying for us, it was difficult to achieve more from these grid positions. The safety car start didn't help us either because in rain the start offers one of the best overtaking opportunities. I think we extracted the best from the grid positions and showed a good team performance in the race."

"For me, unfortunately, it wasn't a particularly thrilling race," added Mattias Ekström. "I started from position five and finished in fifth place. That says it all. I had fantastic car, but we were



somewhat off the mark with the tire pressures because we'd placed our bets on a drying track. That's why, unfortunately, I had hardly any grip and there wasn't a lot I could do."

Remarkably, all 24 vehicles that had started finished the race in spite of the extremely difficult conditions at the Moscow Raceway. Adrien Tambay (Speedweek.com Audi RS 5 DTM), Nico Müller (Playboy Audi RS 5 DTM), Mike Rockenfeller (Schaeffler Audi RS 5 DTM) and Miguel Molina (Teufel Audi RS 5 DTM) took positions twelve, 13, 16 and 17.

Race two at the Moscow Raceway will start on Sunday at 13:10 local time. ARD will begin to air live coverage from Russia on "Das Erste" at 12:05 (CEST).

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