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24h Nürburgring: Audi targets consistency

- **Grid positions 7, 9, 12 and 18 for the 24h race at the Nürburgring**
- **Concentration on race preparation**
- **18 cars within ten seconds**

Ingolstadt/Nürburg, June 24, 2011 – Audi tackles the 24-hour race at the Nürburgring from grid positions seven, nine, twelve and 18. Marc Basseng recorded the fastest lap of an Audi R8 LMS in qualifying.

The fastest 18 cars were covered by only ten seconds after six hours of qualifying around the 25.378 kilometer circuit, the world's longest race track. These included all four Audi R8 LMS fielded by the Audi Sport teams Abt Sportsline and Phoenix, which concentrated primarily on race preparation during both practice days.

“We know that we don't have the fastest car on the grid with the way the Audi R8 LMS is currently classified, which is why we must rely specifically on consistency and reliability,” explained Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “Our main focus of attention was therefore on finding an optimum race set-up and to have well-balanced cars. I think we achieved this.”

This was also confirmed by Marc Basseng who recorded the fastest Audi R8 LMS lap of 8m 28.555s in Friday's second qualifying at the wheel of the Audi Sport Team Phoenix Audi R8 LMS #14. “The car is even easier to drive this year,” said Basseng. “This is a good base for the race.”

Marc Basseng, Marcel Fässler and Frank Stippler start the race on Saturday from seventh on the grid. A row behind and ninth on the grid is the fastest Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline R8 LMS with the three Audi juniors Christer Jöns (23), Luca Ludwig (22) and Christopher Mies (22) who are supported by old-hand Christian Abt. Christopher Mies set the fastest lap (8m 30.169) of start number “17” immediately at the start of second qualifying.



Christian Abt, Mattias Ekström, Timo Scheider and Marco Werner (Audi R8 LMS #16) start from twelfth on the grid. Marco Werner, who took pole position last year, recorded a time of 8m 31.536s on Thursday evening which put him in fourth position after first qualifying. On Friday start number “16” did not improve. Marco Werner did not get a clear lap at the start. After almost an hour it started to rain and the circuit did not dry completely.

The rain also prevented the team in Audi R8 LMS with start number “15” (Christopher Haase/Marc Hennerici/Frank Stippler/Markus Winkelhock) from claiming a better grid position than 18th (8m 33.216s). Christopher Haase spun into a gravel bed on the Grand Prix circuit at the start of second qualifying due to overbraking on the rear axle. The R18 LMS ran smoothly again after changing the brake master cylinder and hydraulic brake booster.

Start number “17” also lost valuable practice time on Thursday. Just before 21:00 Christian Abt was touched at the rear on the right when overtaking before being subsequently hit on the driver’s side. After successfully repairing the car the team decided not to send the car back out onto the track on Thursday, but in fact to prepare calmly for final qualifying and the race.

The two Audi TT RS entered by Raeder Motorsport claimed the top two starting positions in the SP 4T class (31 and 39 overall). The Audi race experience Audi R8 LMS sportscars, in which AUDI AG customers share driving duties with professional race drivers, start from positions 33 and 40.

The 24-hour race at the Nürburgring is broadcast live in full length on www.audi.tv from Saturday 15:30.

The Audi Group sold around 1,092,400 cars of the Audi brand in 2010. The Company posted revenue of €35.4 billion and an operating profit of €3.3 billion in 2010. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). Aurangabad in India saw the start of CKD production of the Audi A6 at the end of 2007, of the Audi A4 in early October 2008 and of the Audi Q5 in July 2010. Production of the new Audi A1 has been running at the Brussels plant since May 2010. The Company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG’s wholly owned subsidiaries include AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft., Automobili Lamborghini Holding S.p.A. in Sant’Agata Bolognese (Italy) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi currently employs around 60,000 people worldwide, including around 46,600 in Germany. Between 2011 and 2015 the brand with the four rings is planning to invest around €11 billion, mainly in new products, in order to sustain the Company’s technological lead embodied in its “Vorsprung durch Technik” slogan. By 2015, Audi plans to increase the number of models in its portfolio to 42.

Audi has long been fulfilling its social responsibility on many levels – with the aim of making the future worth living for generations to come. The basis for Audi’s lasting success is therefore formed by environmental protection, the conservation of resources, international competitiveness and a forward-looking human resources policy. One example of AUDI AG’s commitment to environmental issues is the newly established Audi Environmental Foundation.