



Communications Motorsport

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Audi driver René Rast clinches DTM lead

- **Pole, victory and top of the standings for DTM rookie at the Hungaroring**
- **Seasoned campaigner Mattias Ekström perfects one-two for Audi**
- **Audi leads all three classifications before home race at the Norisring**

Neuburg/Budapest, June 18, 2017 – Audi driver René Rast is the man of the hour in the DTM. The newcomer celebrated his first DTM victory at the Hungaroring and on pulling off a mega weekend even snatched the lead of the drivers' standings. In the manufacturers' and teams' classifications, Audi is in front as well before its home round at the Norisring on July 1/2.

Following his first DTM pole position on Saturday, the 30-year-old, on delivering a perfect lap, again scored three additional points for the top spot on Sunday's grid. And this time, everything went perfectly according to plan in the race as well. Straight from the start, the German from Audi Sport Team Rosberg took the lead and went on to continually extend it. After pitting on lap eleven, Rast initially dropped behind his brand colleague Mattias Ekström from Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline, who had changed tires as early as on lap three. In the final stage, Rast was able to use the advantage of fresher tires to overtake Ekström. With that, Rast achieved his first victory in his ninth DTM race.

"Having won at the Hungaroring is an incredible feeling," René Rast said after his maiden victory. "Twice on pole, my first win, plus the championship lead – I can't even find words for all this. In a rookie season, you can't expect leading the championship after three race weekends and already having won your first race. I'm simply happy about being backed by such a good team."

Mattias Ekström, on clinching second place, improved to position four in the standings. The Swede had planned to work on his qualifying performance and on both days scored an additional point for grid position three. In total, Ekström collected 30 points in Hungary and on Sunday set the fastest race lap as well.

Ekström's teammate Nico Müller, like the day before, started from position four and also finished fourth. The young Swiss was closely following BMW driver Maxine Martin nearly throughout the race, but was not able to overtake him.

A performance marked by a fighting spirit was shown by Jamie Green who, due to a slow pit stop, dropped to position nine some of the time. The Briton subsequently made up several



places. Cheered on by the Hungarian crowd, he even overtook the BMW of the reigning DTM Champion Marco Wittmann on the outside. Green finished the race in position five and, after six races, in third place of the standings, is trailing his teammate René Rast by merely five points and Lucas Auer (Mercedes-Benz) by four.

The unluckiest driver of the day was Mike Rockenfeller. Shortly before the start of the race, leakage was detected on a brake line of his Audi RS 5 DTM, forcing Rockenfeller to start from the rear of the field instead of from grid position five. With a lightning start, early pit stop and fast lap times, Rockenfeller managed to battle his way forward from 18th to tenth place and score a point for Audi Sport Team Phoenix. His teammate Loïc Duval was brushed by BMW driver Tom Blomqvist and dropped to position 16 as a result of the subsequent spin.

Audi scored 70 of the 107 possible points on Sunday, now clearly leading the manufacturers' classification. In the teams' classification, Audi Sport Team Rosberg has extended its advantage to 39 points. Consequently, to the delight of Head of Audi Motorsport Dieter Gass, Audi is going to travel to its "home round" in Nuremberg as the leader of all three classifications. "Obviously, today's race was fantastic for us," said Gass. "After what was an extremely disappointing Saturday for us, it was important for us today to strike back, clinch a one-two victory, plus positions four and five. I'm incredibly happy for René Rast: he's been delivering an awesome debut season in the DTM."

Results of race 2:

- 1 René Rast (AUTO BILD MOTORSPORT Audi RS 5 DTM/Audi Sport Team Rosberg) 35 laps in 58m 01.592s
- 2 Mattias Ekström (Red Bull Audi RS 5 DTM/Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline) +1.041s
- 3 Maxime Martin (BMW) +1,506s
- 4 Nico Müller (Playboy Audi RS 5 DTM/Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline) +1.861s
- 5 Jamie Green (Hoffmann Group Audi RS 5 DTM/Audi Sport Team Rosberg) +5.772s
- ...
- 10 Mike Rockenfeller (Schaeffler Audi RS 5 DTM/Audi Sport Team Phoenix) +13.159s
- 16 Loïc Duval (Castrol EDGE Audi RS 5 DTM/Audi Sport Team Phoenix) +38.535s

– End –

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In 2016, the Audi Group delivered to customers about 1.868 million automobiles of the Audi brand, 3,457 sports cars of the Lamborghini brand and 55,451 motorcycles of the Ducati brand. In the 2016 fiscal year, AUDI AG achieved total revenue of €59.3 billion and an operating profit of €3.1 billion. At present, approximately 88,000 people work for the company all over the world, more than 60,000 of them in Germany. Audi focuses on sustainable products and technologies for the future of mobility.