



Communications Motorsport

Virginia Brusch

Tel: +49 841 89-41753

E-mail: virginia.brusch@audi.de

www.audi-mediacyenter.com/en

Crash landing for Audi and EKS in Sweden

- **EKS misses semi-finals in World RX for the first time since May 2015**
- **Absent rallycross world champion Ekström in third place of overall standings**
- **Heikkinen: “Not a magic weekend from start to finish”**

Ingolstadt/Höljes, July 2, 2017 – Round seven of the 2017 FIA World Rallycross Championship in Höljes was a weekend to forget for Audi and EKS. At EKS’ home round in Sweden of all events, all three drivers missed the semi-finals. Rallycross world champion Mattias Ekström, who was racing in the DTM at the Norisring this weekend, is ranked in position three of the overall standings with five races to go.

Audi and EKS had started the so-called “magic weekend” with great ambitions. Even without Ekström, the squad was intent on continuing the 2014 and 2015 successes when the local hero went home as the winner on both occasions. This year, however, even the qualifying sessions revealed that the necessary pace was lacking. On Saturday, Reinis Nitišs as the best EKS campaigner was ranked only in position twelve and, as a result, would have just barely qualified for the semi-finals of the twelve fastest drivers on Sunday. “Our lap times were more than half a second short of those of the front runners throughout the weekend,” Nitišs said, analyzing the event. Plus, on Sunday, there were some technical issues. In the final qualifying session, the suspension of the Latvian’s car broke, dashing all hopes of making it into the semi-finals.

Consequently, it was up to Toomas Heikkinen to finish the weekend that left something to be desired as the best-placed EKS driver. However, position 14 was anything but a perfect result. “It wasn’t a magic weekend from start to finish,” said the 2014 world championship runner-up. For Heikkinen, a victory in the third qualifying was followed by a setback in the last race when the Finn, after a collision with Timo Scheider and a subsequent spin, was only able to drag his damaged Audi S1 EKS RX quattro to the finish line. Ekström’s stand-in P-G Andersson in 17th overall complemented the worst result achieved by EKS since May 2015. The last time the entire squad had missed the semi-final rounds was at the Hockenheimring exactly 792 days ago.

Coming up next for Audi and EKS is the season’s first overseas race. On August 6 und 7, the World RX is going to visit Trois-Rivières between Montreal and Quebec City in Canada.



2017 FIA World RX – round 7, Höljes – final results

1 Johan Kristoffersson (S)	4m 14.579s
2 Andreas Bakkerud (N)	+2.363s
3 Sébastien Loeb (F)	+2.901s
4 Timmy Hansen (S)	+6.194s
5 Kevin Eriksson (S)	+6.805s
6 Janis Baumanis (LV)	+12.650s

2017 FIA World RX drivers' standings (after 7 of 12 rounds)

1 Johan Kristoffersson (S)	181 points
2 Petter Solberg (N)	150 points
3 Mattias Ekström (S)	143 points
4 Sébastien Loeb (F)	125 points
5 Andreas Bakkerud (N)	124 points
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11 Toomas Heikkinen (FIN)	58 points
13 Reinis Nitišs (LV)	48 points

2017 FIA World RX teams' standings (after 7 of 12 rounds)

1 PSRX Volkswagen Sweden	331 points
2 Team Peugeot Hansen	246 points
3 EKS	201 points
3 Hoonigan Racing Division	201 points
5 MJP Racing Team Austria	142 points

Additional information and content

- [Info about Audi's World RX commitment](#)
- [Results and points standings](#)
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