



**Communications Motorsport**

Virginia Brusch

Tel: +49 151 52817968

E-mail: [virginia.brusch@audi.de](mailto:virginia.brusch@audi.de)

[www.audi-mediacyenter.com/en](http://www.audi-mediacyenter.com/en)

## **Audi experiences disappointment in the Eifel**

- **Belgian Audi Club Team WRT best Audi squad**
- **Two privateer driver teams in top 20**
- **Tough racing conditions due to weather and accidents**

**Ingolstadt/Nürburg, May 29, 2016 – Following three class and three overall victories since 2009, Audi had been planning for another good showing in the Nürburgring 24 Hours this year. However, with two race cars supported by Audi Sport customer racing in the top ten, the 44th running of the event proved disappointing. As the best Audi teams, Belgian Audi Club Team WRT achieved eighth place and Twin Busch Motorsport position ten.**

“The large crowd of fans has gotten used to Audi being in contention for the top spot with many other sports car brands in this legendary race year after year,” said Chris Reinke, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. “We’d have liked being in this position again, but that wasn’t possible this year, not least due to the balance of performance rating, among other things.” Even our top drivers had to take high risks in order to keep pace with the front runners.

Of the six teams relying on the Audi R8 LMS Belgian Audi Club Team WRT was the best to cross the finish line. Robin Frijns/Stuart Leonard/Edward Sandström/Frédéric Vervisch (NL/GB/S/B) achieved eighth place in an accident-prone race. They finished the 24 hours nearly unharmed. Only when Sandström touched the guard rail once in rain, the squad had to change a suspension component. Twin Busch Motorsport was the second-best Audi team in the Eifel. Twin brothers Dennis and Marc Busch (D), together with Christian Mamerow (D) and René Rast (D), took tenth place following an impeccable drive.

The setbacks suffered by the other Audi squads showed how treacherous the conditions were. Following the interruption of the race in the early stage due to heavy rain and hail, Alex Yoong (MAL), with the Audi race experience, had an accident at night in slightly foggy conditions. In the early morning hours, misfortune struck last year’s winner Nico Müller (CH) from Audi Sport Team WRT. He had to evade a rival standing in the opposite direction of traffic and touched the



guard rail. The subsequent repair took three hours. Only three laps later, there was a misunderstanding when two-time winner Markus Winkelhock (D) from Audi Sport Team Phoenix hit the Audi of Connor De Phillippi (USA) from Team Montaplast by Land-Motorsport. Both cars could not be repaired anymore. An incident of contact between a rival and experienced campaigner Frank Stippler (D) in the number "5" Audi deprived Phoenix Racing of a top-6 result shortly before the end of the race.

Two all-privateer driver teams were happy about their positions in the top 20. Christian Bollrath/Maximilian Hackländer/Ralf Oeverhaus/Micke Ohlsson (D/D/D/S) achieved 14th place with the Audi race experience. Team Car Collection Motorsport was on the Nürburgring grid with Audi for the first time and, with Ronnie Saurenmann/Peter Schmidt/Andreas Ziegler (D/D/D), advanced to position 18.

- End -

#### **Race results**

- 1 Christodoulou/Engel/Metzger/Schneider (Mercedes), 134 laps
- 2 Hohenadel/Seefried/Vietoris/van der Zande (Mercedes) +5.697s
- 3 Alzen/Arnold/Götz/Seyffarth (Mercedes) -1 lap
- 4 Buurman/Engel/Haupt/Müller (Mercedes) -1 lap
- 5 Eng/Martin/Sims/Werner (BMW) -1 lap
- 6 Asch/Heyer/Keilwitz/Ludwig (Mercedes) -3 laps
- 7 Brück/Hamprecht/Menzel/Smith (Bentley) -3 laps
- 8 Frijns/Leonard/Sandström/Vervisch (Audi R8 LMS) -4 laps
- 9 Dumbreck/Henzler/Imperatori/Ragginger (Porsche) -4 laps
- 10 Busch/Busch/Mamerow/Rast (Audi R8 LMS) -4 laps
- 14 Bollrath/Hackländer/Oeverhaus/Ohlsson (Audi R8 LMS) -9 laps
- 18 Saurenmann/Schmidt/Ziegler (Audi R8 LMS) -11 laps
- 46 Kaffer/Mies/Müller/Vanthoor (Audi R8 LMS) -25 laps

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, AUDI AG 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.