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Audi R8 LMS clinches second and third place at Spa

- **Audi Sport Team WRT narrowly beaten in tough 24-hour race**
- **Team Parker Racing wins Am category in Audi R8 LMS ultra**
- **All four new Audi R8 LMS cars see checkered flag**

Ingolstadt/Spa, July 26, 2015 – Audi celebrated the next podium successes of the new Audi R8 LMS at Spa. Audi Sport Team WRT with Nico Müller (CH), Stéphane Ortelli (MC) and Frank Stippler (D) clinched second place in a race that was hard-fought from lights to flag. Christian Mamerow (D), Christopher Mies (D) and Nicki Thiim (DK) secured third place for Audi Sport Team Phoenix. Another Audi driver squad crossed the finish line in the iconic endurance race in the top ten as well.

Positions two and three overall, plus a class victory: Audi Sport customer racing had plenty of reason to rejoice in the Spa 24 Hours. Only ten weeks following the first endurance race victory of the new Audi R8 LMS in the Nürburgring 24 Hours, the new design confirmed its performance capability. Audi Sport Team WRT had to admit defeat by one lap in its Belgian home round, trailed by Audi Sport Team Phoenix by another lap. As a result, Audi missed scoring its fourth overall victory at Spa after 2011, 2012 and 2014 by a very narrow margin. The teams of three marques were battling for victory up to the last hour of the race. In the manufacturers' classification, Audi secured its second victory in succession.

“This is the next nice result for our new race car,” said Romolo Liebchen, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. “We know from personal experience how challenging the road from a new design to a reliable endurance race car is. That makes the fact that the new Audi R8 LMS has finished the two toughest 24-hour races in Europe with top results on the podium in the first five months following its introduction even sweeter. Congratulations to BMW on taking victory.”

In addition to the good overall results, Audi Sport customer racing was pleased about a class victory of Team Parker Racing. Stuart Parker's customer team competed with the previous-generation Audi R8 LMS ultra in the Am class. Ian Loggie (GB), Callum Macleod (GB), Benny Simonsen (DK) and Julian Westwood (GB)



maintained the lead in their class from the beginning of the race and won the classification for amateur drivers with a two-lap advantage.

In spite of many setbacks, two other new Audi R8 LMS cars ultimately took positions in the top five. Audi Sport Team Phoenix with Christian Mamerow (D), Christopher Mies (D) and Nicki Thiim (DK) achieved third place following a recovery. Their teammates Marcel Fässler (CH), André Lotterer (D) and Mike Rockenfeller (D) finished in fifth place. Both driver squads had lost a lot of time in the turbulent early stage. Following heavy rain, Phoenix switched to slicks early with both race cars on a drying track, but the weather put a spoke in the wheel of Ernst Moser's team. When the rain started again, the squad was forced to make another tire change, while unfavorable caution periods had an additional effect. In the final stage, stop-and-go penalties due to crossing the track boundaries resulted in a further loss of time. Last year's winners René Rast (D), Laurens Vanthoor (B) and Markus Winkelhock (D) were absolutely competitive with good lap times. After a failed overtaking attempt, Vanthoor lost control of his car. The collision meant that Audi Sport Team WRT had to change parts of the suspension and bodywork. In the end, due to consequential damage within the driveline, car number '1' dropped out of the top ten.

Team Saintéloc regretted missed opportunities as well. Marc Basseng (D), Grégory Guilvert (F) and Edward Sandström (S) were in second place some of the time before retiring due to technical failure. The sister car of the French team with Michaël Blanchemain (F), Mino Caccia (CH), Philippe Haezebrouck (F) and Gilles Lallement (F) achieved eighth place in the Am category. Due to accidents the number '3' (Belgian Audi Club Team WRT), number '4' (Team WRT) and number '75' (ISR) Audi R8 LMS cars did not finish the race.

Upon the positive completion of the endurance race, Audi is ready for the next step. Following the successful trials in the test runs, the production of the new Audi R8 LMS for customers on four continents will be launched in September.

Race results

- 1 Catsburg/Luhr/Palttala (BMW #46), 536 laps
- 2 Ortelli/Müller/Stippler (Audi R8 LMS #2) -1 lap
- 3 Mamerow/Mies/Thiim (Audi R8 LMS #5) -2 laps
- 4 Bruni/Lathouras/Lemeret/Pier Guidi (Ferrari #47) -5 laps
- 5 Fässler/Lotterer/Rockenfeller (Audi R8 LMS #6) -6 laps
- 6 Cameron/Griffin/Guedes/Rigon (Ferrari #51) -7 laps
- 7 Bryant/McCaig/Modell/Sims (BMW #79) -9 laps
- 8 Cocker/Keen/Machitski/Minshaw (BMW #78) -9 laps
- 9 Abril/Parisy/Primat (Bentley #84) -9 laps



10 Leonard/Meadows/Mücke/Onslow Cole (Aston Martin #32) –13 laps

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14 Loggie/Macleod/Simonsen/Westwood (Audi R8 LMS #24) –23 laps

21 Rast/Vanthoor/Winkelhock (Audi R8 LMS #1) –28 laps

34 Blanchemain/Caccia/Haezebrouck/Lallement (Audi R8 LMS #36) –175 laps

– End –

In 2014, the Audi Group delivered approximately 1,741,100 cars of the Audi brand to its customers. The company achieved revenue of €53.8 billion and an operating profit of €5.15 billion in 2014. Audi operates globally in more than 100 markets and has production facilities in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Brussels (Belgium), Bratislava (Slovakia), Martorell (Spain), Kaluga (Russia), Aurangabad (India), Changchun and Foshan (China) as well as Jakarta (Indonesia). The brand with the Four Rings will start producing cars in Curitiba (Brazil) this year and in San José Chiapa (Mexico) in 2016. Wholly owned subsidiaries of AUDI AG include quattro GmbH (Neckarsulm), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese, Italy) and sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna, Italy). The company currently employs approximately 80,000 people worldwide, thereof around 58,000 in Germany. Total investment of about €24 billion is planned from 2015 to 2019 – primarily in new products and sustainable technologies. Audi is committed to its corporate responsibility and has anchored the principle of sustainability for its products and processes in its strategy. The long-term goal is CO₂-neutral mobility.