



**Communications**

**Audi Sport customer racing**

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## **Audi R8 LMS wins in Italy, America and Spain**

- **Thrilling opening victory for Audi Sport Italia at Mugello**
- **Audi Sport customer teams successful around the globe in all Audi Sport customer racing models**

**Neuburg a. d. Donau, July 20, 2020 – Audi Sport Italia made a strong start in the Italian GT Championship in an endurance race that was fiercely contested all the way to the end. Two GT4 exploits and one podium result each for the Audi R8 LMS GT2 and the Audi RS 3 LMS round off the weekend’s success.**

### **Audi R8 LMS GT3**

Thrilling endurance race in Italy: Audi Sport Italia won the three-hour endurance race at Mugello in the season opener of the Italian GT Championship. Team Audi Sport Italia, whose management is shared by team founder Emilio Radaelli with Ferdinando Geri for the first time this year, dominated two of the three practice sessions, captured the pole position in qualifying and fought with its rivals in the race for thousandths of a second. In the cockpit: Audi Sport driver Mattia Drudi, Daniel Mancinelli as well as last year’s sprint champion Riccardo Agostini, who switched to Audi Sport Italia for this season. Agostini drove the start and initially fell behind a BMW. After 21 laps, the Italian overtook the car in front of him in traffic and handed over the Audi R8 LMS to Daniel Mancinelli at the first pit stop with a nine-second lead, who was able to keep an advantage of eight seconds until he handed it over to Mattia Drudi. In the last six laps of the race, the Audi Sport driver fought for every metre with BMW driver Alexander Sims. Despite slightly impaired aerodynamics due to body parts damaged in the fight, Drudi and his team mates won by exactly 26 thousandths of a second after 498 race kilometres. The next round is scheduled in Misano in two weeks’ time – this time consisting of two 50-minute sprint races.

### **Audi R8 LMS GT2**

Second place in Utah: The Audi R8 LMS GT2 achieved a podium result in the American club sport racing series GT Celebration. Dmitri Novikov from Team Rearden Racing finished the first sprint in the US state of Utah in second place overall in the 620 hp sports car.

### **Audi R8 LMS GT4**

Victory at Sebring: In the IMSA Michelin Pilot Challenge, the Audi Sport customer team CarBahn with Peregrine Racing celebrated its first victory of the season in chaotic weather conditions at Sebring. Initially, Tyler McQuarrie had to wait 75 minutes on pole position due to a



thunderstorm before race control allowed him and his 21 opponents to start in the strong GT4 field. The American took the lead in the Audi R8 LMS GT4, but after only five laps the bad weather forced a 70-minute race interruption. Afterwards McQuarrie took no risks on the wet airfield circuit and relinquished the lead. His team mate Jeff Westphal then took the lead again after the pit stop. Last year's champions finally won the second race of the season with a two second lead. After fourth place at the season opener in Daytona in January, McQuarrie/Westphal took the top of the standings for the first time this year, and CarBahn with Peregrine Racing also leads the team standings. Drivers and team are five points ahead after two of ten events.

Opening success in Spain: At the start of the Campeonato de España Resistencia, the Audi R8 LMS GT4 clinched a class victory on the Iberian peninsula. Team Baporo Motorsport who were third last year in the GT Cup Open Europe series with Audi competed on the Navarra circuit in the north of the country with Daniel Diaz-Varela and Manel Cerqueda. The Spanish-Andorran driver line-up started from the pole position of Class C3 and won the 50-minute race with a 10.8-second lead.

#### **Audi RS 3 LMS (TCR)**

Podium in Navarra: At the season opener of the Spanish endurance racing series Campeonato de España Resistencia, an Audi Sport customer team clinched a podium finish with the RS 3 LMS. The Spanish SPV Racing team clinched third place in the TCR class with Philipp Smaali/Alvaro Fontes from grid position three in the second race. With ten competitors, this category attracted the biggest number of competitors in the mixed sportscar and touring car racing series.

#### **Coming up next week**

24–25/07 Hockenheim (D), round 2, Spezial Tourenwagen Trophy  
25–26/07 Imola (I), round 1, GT World Challenge Europe Endurance Cup  
25–26/07 Grobnik (HR), rounds 1 and 2, TCR Eastern Europe  
25–26/07 Grobnik (HR), rounds 1 and 2, Eset V4 Cup  
25–26/07 Grobnik (HR), rounds 3 and 4, FIA CEZ  
25–26/07 Sugo (J), rounds 1 and 2, TCR Japan  
25–26/07 Igora Drive (RU), rounds 3 and 4, TCR Russia  
25–26/07 Mosport (CDN), rounds 1 and 2, Canadian Touring Car Championship  
25–26/07 Imola (I), rounds 1 and 2, GT4 European Series

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