



Communications Motorsport
Virginia Brusch
Tel: +49 841 89 41753
E-mail: virginia.brusch@audi.de
www.audi-mediacyenter.com

Audi Sport customer racing aims to defend title in Blancpain GT Series

- **Four teams from four countries to represent Audi's colors in most important European GT racing series**
- **Title defense mission for Belgian Audi Club Team WRT**

Ingolstadt, April 5, 2016 – Up to twelve Audi R8 LMS compete in the Blancpain GT Series, the most important European GT3 racing series. On April 9 and 10, it will start a new round at Misano (Italy). This season, four teams from Audi Sport customer racing are going to battle for various titles in sprint races and across endurance distances. With up to eleven automobile brands in the field, the series is regarded as one of the toughest GT3 championships around the globe.

The Blancpain GT Series is a valuable platform for Audi Sport customer racing. Three times Audi drivers have won the endurance classification. In addition, two drivers' titles have been clinched in the overall classification, including last year's by Robin Frijns (NL). In other categories, Audi's customer teams have taken an additional 15 titles since 2011 – with Belgian Audi Club Team WRT, the most successful squad to date, leading the way. Its team boss, Vincent Vosse, is putting the largest line-up on the grid this season. Twelve drivers in total will be competing in the sprint classification with six Audi R8 LMS cars.

The challengers of the squad from Baudour, Belgium, include three other Audi Sport customer racing teams. I.S.R. from Prague (Czech Republic), Phoenix Racing from Meuspath (Germany) and Saintéloc Racing from Saint Etienne (France) are going to contest the sprint racing series, each fielding two Audi R8 LMS cars. In the endurance classification, Belgian Audi Club Team WRT is tackling the competition with five race cars, plus there will be two from Saintéloc Racing and two from I.S.R. At the season's pinnacle event – the Spa 24 Hours on July 30 and 31 – further Audi teams, including Phoenix Racing, are expected to compete.

Alongside classic gentleman drivers and seasoned semi-pro campaigners, pros such as WEC driver René Rast (D) or the former Formula One drivers Markus Winkelhock (D) and Will Stevens (GB) are handling commitments in the Blancpain GT Series with



Audi.

“Never before have as many Audi race cars been on the Blancpain GT Series grid,” says Chris Reinke, Head of Audi Sport customer racing. “Our customer teams are contesting the events with promising driver squads. Still, we’re facing one of the fiercest competitions of all, as the ten other automobile manufacturers with their teams are absolutely competitive rivals.”

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The Audi teams in the Blancpain GT Series Sprint Cup

Belgian Audi Club Team WRT

Laurens Vanthoor/Frédéric Vervisch (B/B)
Stuart Leonard/Michael Meadows (GB/GB)
Rodrigo Baptista/Sérgio Jimenez (BR/BR)
Robin Frijns/Dries Vanthoor (NL/B)
Enzo Ide/Christopher Mies (B/D)
René Rast/Will Stevens (D/GB)

I.S.R.

Franck Perera/Marlon Stöckinger (F/FP)
Filip Salaquarda/Frank Stippler (CZ/D)

Phoenix Racing

Niki Mayr-Melnhof/Markus Winkelhock (A/D)
Nicolaj Møller Madsen/Markus Pommer (DK/D)

Saintéloc Racing

Christopher Haase/Mike Parisy (D/F)
Romain Monti/Edward Sandström (F/S)

The Audi teams in the Blancpain GT Series Endurance Cup

Belgian Audi Club Team WRT

Dries Vanthoor/Laurens Vanthoor/Frédéric Vervisch (B/B/B)
Robin Frijns/Stuart Leonard/Michael Meadows (NL/GB/GB)
Filipe Albuquerque/Rodrigo Baptista/Sérgio Jimenez (P/BR/BR)
Pierre Kaffer/Peter Kox/Adrien de Leener (D/NL/B)
René Rast/Will Stevens (D/GB)
Nico Müller/René Rast/Laurens Vanthoor (CH/D/B), 24h Spa



I.S.R.

Filip Salaquarda/Frank Stippler/Marlon Stöckinger (CZ/D/RP)
NN

Phoenix Racing

Christopher Mies/Frank Stippler/Markus Winkelhock (D/D/D), 24h Spa

Saintéloc Racing

Christopher Haase/Gregory Guilvert/NN (D/F)
Marco Bonanomi/NN/NN (I)

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.