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## **Audi to compete in 12h race at Bathurst**

- **Audi race experience Team Joest fields two Audi R8 LMS cars**
- **Strong drivers from Australia, Asia and Europe**
- **Extended program for the AUDI AG GT3 sportscar**

**Ingolstadt, December 21, 2010 – The 2011 motorsport season opens with a genuine highlight for Audi: On February 6, Audi race experience Team Joest contests the 12-hour race at Bathurst with two Audi R8 LMS cars. The event at Australia's most famous race track rings in the extended program for the AUDI AG GT3 sportscar.**

The customer sport program started in 2009 with the Audi R8 LMS was restructured for the 2011 season. Further development of the Audi R8 LMS, sales and marketing of the cars and the technical support for customers and importer teams worldwide were transferred to the quattro GmbH.

The extended program includes additional events for Audi race experience Team Joest, which was active last year mainly on the Nürburgring-Nordschleife and gave Audi customers the possibility to compete in races themselves with the fascinating Audi R8 LMS.

For the 12-hour race at Bathurst, however, six experienced campaigners sit at the wheel of the two Audi R8 LMS. Mark Eddy, Craig Lowndes and Warren Luff will share an "all-Australian" car. Mark Eddy competes already for a year with an Audi R8 LMS in the Australian GT Championship. Craig Lowndes won the Australian V8 Supercar Championship three times and the 1,000-kilometer race at Bathurst five times. Warren Luff also claims years of Bathurst experience as long-standing V8 Supercar driver.

The two Germans Marc Basseng and Christopher Mies and also the Hong Kong-Chinese Darryl O'Young share the sister car. Basseng and Mies have already completed many races with the Audi R8 LMS. Darryl O'Young impressed during the 12-hour race in Sepang (Malaysia), in which Audi race experience Team Joest took

second place at the end of August. Furthermore, he replaced Alexandre Prémat at the DTM finale in Shanghai.

The 6.213 kilometer long Mount Panorama Circuit at Bathurst is Australia's most well-known circuit and includes a near two-kilometer long straight and an altitude difference of 174 meters. For this reason the track, opened in 1938, also bears the name "Mini Nordschleife" among experts.

The Bathurst event, through which the quattro GmbH also aims to open new markets for the Audi R8 LMS, is the opener to an entire series of long-distance races that Audi contest throughout the 2011 season with the GT3 sportscar. The program is spearheaded by the two 24-hours races at the Nürburgring (June 25/26) and Spa-Francorchamps (July 30/31).

"The race track at Bathurst is a real classic," explains Romolo Liebchen, Head of Customer Sport of quattro GmbH. "For our restructured customer sport program Bathurst is certainly a perfect way to start the season."

"To see the Audi R8 LMS in action there will certainly be a real experience for the fans," adds Ralf Jüttner, Team Director of Audi race experience Team Joest.

The Audi Group sold around 950,000 cars of the Audi brand in 2009. The Company posted revenue of €29.8 billion and an operating profit of €1.6 billion. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). Aurangabad in India saw the start of CKD production of the Audi A6 at the end of 2007 and of the Audi A4 in early October 2008. Production of the new Audi A1 has been running at the Brussels plant since May 2010. The Company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG's wholly owned subsidiaries include AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft., Automobili Lamborghini Holding S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese (Italy) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi currently employs around 58,000 people worldwide, including 45,500 in Germany. Between 2010 and 2012 the Audi Group is planning to invest around €5.5 billion, mainly in new products, in order to sustain the Company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" slogan. By 2015, Audi plans to increase the number of models in its portfolio to 42.

Audi has long been fulfilling its social responsibility on many levels – with the aim of making the future worth living for generations to come. The basis for Audi's lasting success is therefore formed by environmental protection, the conservation of resources, international competitiveness and a forward-looking human resources policy. One example of AUDI AG's commitment to environmental issues is the newly established Audi Environmental Foundation.