



Motorsport Communications

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Champion Lucas di Grassi back on the podium

- **Audi on the winners podium also at the E-Prix in Uruguay**
- **Daniel Abt unlucky after another strong performance**

Punta del Este, March 17, 2018 – Defending Champion Lucas di Grassi took second and in doing so claimed his first podium finish of the season at the sixth round of the electric racing series Formula E in Punta del Este (Uruguay).

The Brazilian from the Audi Sport ABT Schaeffler squad produced an impressive performance around the fastest track of the season. In the morning's free practice di Grassi was faster than the rest of the field by more the four-tenths of a second at the wheel of his Audi e-tron FE04. The Audi driver also set the fastest lap in the 'Super Pole'. However, it was not di Grassi who started the race from pole position, but in fact the initially fifth placed Jean-Eric Vergne in the Techeetah.

"In my opinion it wasn't correct to delete the times of the fastest drivers because we all touched a bollard in the chicane," said di Grassi. "I understood it differently in the drivers' briefing and it was handled differently beforehand in free practice and in qualifying. Instead of starting from pole position I had to start from second place on the dirty side of the grid – and this on a track where overtaking is extremely difficult."

Di Grassi staged a spectacular fight throughout the entire race with championship leader Jean-Eric Vergne, however every attempt at overtaking made by the Brazilian remained unsuccessful. "I had the faster car, but Jev defended perfectly," said di Grassi. "It was possible to score 28 points today, instead it was only 18. But our car is super-fast and now also reliable. I'm looking forward to the second half of the season."

His team mate Daniel Abt was exceptionally unlucky. The Mexico City winner fought his way from fifth on the grid to third in the first half of the race. After swapping cars, he had to pit for a second time because the seatbelts came undone. "We have to find out how this happened," said Daniel Abt, who crossed the line in 14th place. "The seat belts were closed, but after two laps they were suddenly open."

"Daniel's problem with the belts cost us a double podium and was a huge disappointment for him," said Team Principal Allan McNish. "It's positive that we got both cars to the finish and that Lucas took his first podium of the season after having scored his first points in Mexico. His fight



with Jean-Eric Vergne for the lead was incredibly intense and exciting from the first to the last lap. On one occasion I thought now Lucas is through, but Jev drove a strong race as well.”

“It was a close, hard fight between the two,” said Head of Audi Motorsport Dieter Gass. “Unfortunately there was no way to get by Jean-Eric Vergne, even though Lucas tried often. Today he needed the fan boost that Daniel had. Even though more was possible, we can be satisfied with the performance this weekend. The reliability was also there. We look forward positively to the rest of the season.”

The first European Formula E race of the 2017/2018 season is held in Rome (Italy) on April 14. After the first half of the season, Daniel Abt is seventh in the standings, Lucas di Grassi improved to tenth in Punta del Este. Audi Sport ABT Schaeffler is sixth in the teams’ classification.

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