



Communications Motorsport

Jürgen Pippig

Tel: +49 (0)841 89 34200

E-mail: juergen.pippig@audi.de

www.audi-motorsport.info

Eva-Maria Veith

Tel: +49 (0)841 89 33922

E-mail: eva-maria.veith@audi.de

Lucas di Grassi to compete for Audi in Brazil

- **Former Formula One racer to experience debut at fifth FIA WEC round**
- **Home race at São Paulo in Audi R18 ultra**
- **Brazilian becomes team-mate of Tom Kristensen and Allan McNish**

Ingolstadt, August 22, 2012 – Audi has signed Lucas di Grassi, a local driver with Formula One experience, for the fifth round of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) on September 15.

Two premieres in September: For the first time, an LMP sports car fielded by Audi under a factory commitment will be running at a race in Brazil and for the first time, a Brazilian is receiving the opportunity to compete in Audi's sports car program. "We're delighted to be able to provide the audience here, the media, our importer Audi Brazil and of course the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) with a special link to this location," emphasizes Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. "We're giving Lucas di Grassi a chance to compete at home as an ambassador for endurance racing and to fight for overall victory in the Audi R18."

After a career in kart racing, Lucas di Grassi competed in the Formula 3 Euro Series as part of the DTM's supporting program, moved up into the GP2 Series and finished as the runner-up in 2007, was a Formula One test driver and ultimately, in 2010, a Grand Prix race driver. "The WEC race is a nice opportunity to attract attention at home together with Audi," says the delighted 28-year-old talent. "Endurance racing is a fascinating discipline of motorsport which I've only experienced in tests so far. That's why I'm particularly excited about my debut in the WEC for Audi alongside two big names like Allan McNish and Tom Kristensen."

In 2009, the Latin American from São Paulo tested an Audi R10 TDI for the Kolles private team for the first time and completed two other sports car tests for a different team last year. To prepare for the fifth WEC round, di Grassi tested an Audi R18 ultra at the Lausitzring for three days in early August. "He left a good impression then, which motivated us to sign him," says Dr. Ullrich.



Lucas di Grassi's run in the Audi R18 ultra designated as car number "2" is limited to the fifth race of the season. As planned, the current leaders of the standings, Tom Kristensen and Allan McNish, will be tackling the rounds at Silverstone, Bahrain, Japan and China as a duo.

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The Audi Group delivered 1,302,659 cars of the Audi brand to customers in 2011. In 2011, the Company posted revenue of €44.1 billion and an operating profit of €5.3 billion. Audi produces vehicles in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm (Germany), Győr (Hungary), Changchun (China) and Brussels (Belgium). The Audi Q7 is built in Bratislava (Slovakia). In July 2010, CKD production of the Audi Q5 was added to the existing Audi A4 and A6 manufacturing operations in Aurangabad (India). At the Brussels plant, production of the Audi A1 has been running since 2010, while production of the new A1 Sportback began in 2012. The Audi Q3 has been built in Martorell (Spain) since June 2011. The Company is active in more than 100 markets worldwide. AUDI AG's wholly owned subsidiaries include amongst others AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft. (Győr/Hungary), Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. (Sant'Agata Bolognese/Italy), AUDI BRUSSELS S.A./N.V. (Brussels/Belgium), quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm and the sports bike manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. (Bologna/Italy). Audi currently employs around 65,000 people worldwide, including around 48,000 in Germany. Between 2012 and 2016 the brand with the four rings is planning to invest a total of €13 billion – mainly in new products and the extension of production capacities – in order to sustain the Company's technological lead embodied in its "Vorsprung durch Technik" claim. Audi is currently expanding its site in Győr (Hungary) and will start production in Foshan (China) in late 2013 and in Mexico in 2016.

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 Audi Environmental Foundation. Within the context of "Vorsprung durch Technik," which extends far beyond its products, the Company is directing its activities toward a major goal – comprehensive CO₂-neutral mobility.