



Communications Motorsport

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Marc Gené is new reserve driver at Audi

- **2009 Le Mans winner augments Audi squad**
- **Spaniard brings sports car victories and Formula 1 experience to the team**
- **Timo Bernhard's recovery is progressing**

Ingolstadt, April 17, 2012 – Audi is reinforcing its sports car line-up with another driver. The Spaniard Marc Gené will be available to Audi as a reserve driver, standing in for Timo Bernhard in the Audi R18 ultra as early as at the second round of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) at Spa-Francorchamps on May 5.

This year, Audi again decided to sign a reserve driver for the Le Mans 24 Hours. Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich selected Marc Gené for this role, a very experienced sports car racer who brings long-standing Formula 1 experience to the team as well. The 38-year-old Spaniard has been under contract as a test or race driver with Formula 1 racing teams since 1999. He also contested the past five events of the Le Mans 24 Hours, clinching overall victory in 2009. After Timo Bernhard was injured in a testing accident that was no fault of his own in mid-March and is still recovering, Gené will be sharing the number "3" Audi R18 ultra with Romain Dumas (F) and Loïc Duval (F) at Spa.

"At our first meetings I immediately had the impression that Marc (Gené) will blend well with our sports car squad," emphasizes Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. "We very quickly reached an agreement. It's very unfortunate that Timo Bernhard won't be able to compete for us at the second WEC round at Spa as planned. At the same time, I'm pleased to see his recovery making significant progress. That's why we're sticking to our original plan of having him run at the Le Mans 24 Hours."

This is not the first time for Audi to rely on a reserve at the most important endurance race of the year. Following Lucas Luhr (D) in the 2010 season and Marco Bonanomi (I) last year, Marc Gené's nomination as a reserve driver marks the third one in succession. After ten Le Mans victories, Audi will be fielding the first ever



diesel hybrid sports car in history with all-wheel drive at La Sarthe in the summer – the new Audi R18 e-tron quattro. Like its conventionally powered sister model, the Audi R18 ultra, it will be celebrating its race debut three weeks from now at Spa.

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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 May 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 AUDI HUNGARIA MOTOR Kft., Automobili Lamborghini S.p.A. in Sant'Agata Bolognese (Italy), AUDI BRUSSELS S.A./N.V. in Brussels (Belgium) and quattro GmbH in Neckarsulm. Audi currently employs around 64,000 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" slogan. Audi is currently expanding its site in Győr (Hungary) and will start production in Foshan (China) in late 2013.

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. Under the heading of "Audi balanced mobility," the Company is directing its activities toward a major goal – comprehensive CO₂-neutral mobility.