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Quotes after Qualifying at the Lausitzring

Ingolstadt/Lausitzring, June 18, 2011 – Two Audi racers on row two, five Audi cars in the top eight and a strong DTM comeback by Tom Kristensen – quotes from the Audi camp after qualifying at the Lausitzring.

Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich (Head of Audi Motorsport)

“Up to the top eight things were going well for us. We’ve got five Audi cars in the top eight, which underlines a good team performance. And in the last section of qualifying it was simply not possible for us to keep the pace of Mercedes. Two cars on the second row of the grid and five in the top eight is a good base for the race. It’ll probably be difficult but we’ll try everything. Tom (Kristensen) has shown how strong he is. He’s been gone for almost two years and is immediately among the front runners again.”

Mattias Ekström (Red Bull Audi A4 DTM), grid position 3

“It’s nice to be back at the front again. Grid position three is okay, but in the end we were much too slow. The first qualifying sections went well but on used tires we didn’t have a chance in Q4. Of course that’s a bit frustrating after having been so close to the top before. I think we simply didn’t have the optimal set-up for less grip. Tomorrow in the race I’ll give everything to mount the podium and to score good points.”

Martin Tomczyk (Schaeffler Audi A4 DTM), grid position 4

“Obviously, I can be satisfied. Fourth place is a good starting base. We saw that we’re competitive here on new tires. As far as the fourth qualifying section goes you’ve got to be honest: Mercedes deserves credit for being more competitive on used tires and setting times we weren’t able to set. At least in qualifying they were a tiny bit better than we. On Sunday we’ll attack in order to break Mercedes’ dominance.”



Oliver Jarvis (Audi Sport performance cars A4 DTM), grid position 6

“Such a close qualifying session! Small mistakes made a big difference today. I’m a bit disappointed about P6 but I can still smile because we’re in contention at the front of the field. And that’s important.”

Tom Kristensen (E-POSTBRIEF Audi A4 DTM), grid position 7

“Audi Sport and Team Abt – it’s simply super-cool with them. But we mustn’t forget why I’m here: to stand in for Mike Rockenfeller. I’m hearing that he’s doing much better and hope that he’ll soon be really fit again. I only arrived here on Friday morning and have not been in the DTM since the Hockenheim finale in 2009. They’re now using different tires here. It’s crucial to get the sector times together. In Q2 I was driving really good sectors. I’d have tried that in the next qualifying section too but my car was jumping a bit in turn one. That impaired my line a little. And on my second lap I had a bit too much oversteer. But in the end it was a good qualifying session.”

Filipe Albuquerque (TV Movie Audi A4 DTM), grid position 8

“I’ve got mixed feelings. I’m happy to be in Q3 for the first time but I wasn’t happy with my last lap. I could have done better. If you’re driving at the limit here and make a small mistake you’re out quickly. I pushed to make it into Q4. We’re getting better from race to race. I’m hoping to continue to make such progress.”

Timo Scheider (AUTO TEST Audi A4 DTM), grid position 9

“The team and I took a risk in the morning and tried out a different set-up. We then changed our mind again and used what the other guys were driving with. Maybe the truth is somewhere in between. We lost a lot of time in the last sector. Of course that’s very disappointing.”

Miguel Molina (Red Bull Audi A4 DTM), grid position 11

“The qualifying sessions are very close. Our car was good, everything was going pretty well. But in the end I had to lift a bit because we had traffic in the last turn. That made the difference.”

Edoardo Mortara (Playboy Audi A4 DTM), grid position 12

“I made too many mistakes today. Twelfth place isn’t what we’d been hoping for after the fastest time in Q1. It was my fault that I didn’t make it into Q3. My team did a superb job, I had a great car. I want to thank Team Rosberg and Audi. Now I’m hoping for a good race and think that we’ve got the potential for it.”



Rahel Frey (Glamour Audi A4 DTM), grid position 18

“We knew the track from the test. But the Lausitzring is not one of my favorite tracks. We lost nearly a second, that’s acceptable. But in the race we’ve got to fight to catch up with the field. I’ll continue to do my best. On Friday we wanted to drive long runs but unfortunately my bout of nausea thwarted our plans.”

Hans-Jürgen Abt (Team Director Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline): “I’m really happy for Mattias (Ekström) that he’s regained his performance. More wasn’t possible. He was already running two laps on his tires and that meant he was at the limit. I’m particularly pleased with Tom Kristensen’s showing. He’s done a great job of getting back into the action – it’s as though he’d never left. You can tell that he’s a real pro. And he’s very cool and relaxed. Now we’re ready for the assault on Sunday. We can attack the cars in front of us. Sometimes that’s even an advantage in the DTM. And in the end we can be pretty pleased with the team result.”

Ernst Moser (Team Director Audi Sport Team Phoenix): “At the Lausitzring we’ve always seen a Mercedes dominance. That’s why the result on the second row is worth even more. In Q3 we could see that all the guys were within one tenth. If in a situation like that you advance as much as Martin (Tomczyk) did that’s certainly a great feat. With Rahel (Frey) we’re on position 18 again where we actually didn’t want to be. However, she had lost practice time on Friday.”

Arno Zensen (Team Director Audi Sport Team Rosberg): “The positive thing was that we showed that the pace of both drivers was good. In the first qualifying section we occupied positions one and two. The thing that makes me particularly happy is that Filipe (Albuquerque) has been the best rookie. He made it into the top eight. That certainly makes it possible to score points on Sunday. Edo (Mortara) went beyond the limits of his car a bit. That can happen as both drivers are new in the DTM. It’s important that the pace is right. There’s more to come yet.”



The Audi Group sold around 1,092,400 cars of the Audi brand in 2010. The Company posted revenue of €35.4 billion and an operating profit of €3.3 billion in 2010. 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, of the Audi A4 in early October 2008 and of the Audi Q5 in July 2010. 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 60,000 people worldwide, including around 46,600 in Germany. Between 2011 and 2015 the brand with the four rings is planning to invest around €11 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.