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Toward pole with wings: Audi shines at Red Bull Ring

- **Edoardo Mortara on grid position one for the first time**
- **Two Audi A5 DTM cars on the two front rows**
- **Second pole position for Audi at fourth race of the year**

Ingolstadt/Spielberg, June 2, 2012 – Red Bull gives wings: On Thursday, Audi driver Edoardo Mortara experienced the Red Bull Ring from a totally different perspective in a helicopter alongside aerobatics pilot Siegfried Schwarz. 48 hours later, he took his first pole position in the DTM at the wheel of the Playboy Audi A5 DTM of Audi Sport Team Rosberg.

“That was simply incredible,” beamed the 25-year-old Italian with dual citizenship and residence in Switzerland. “First, this fantastic helicopter flight and now my first pole position in the DTM! What can I say? Thank you to my guys from Team Rosberg, thank you to Audi Sport! The car was really great to drive today; it was truly enjoyable, although yesterday we still had a few difficulties. I made a small mistake and slipped off the track. But that was yesterday. Today, we’re celebrating pole!”

Mortara, who finished in the top four for the first time in a DTM qualifying session at Spielberg, prevailed against leader of the standings Gary Paffett in a Mercedes-Benz in the crucial shoot-out for the top grid positions by 121 thousandths of a second. At the fourth round, this makes Audi the first manufacturer to have clinched two pole positions in the DTM this year. “This underscores the potential of our A5 DTM,” commented Head of Audi Motorsport Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich. “We worked hard and have still got to do more. But on the whole we’ve seen a good performance here, in the two free practice sessions just like in qualifying. The DTM field is closer than ever. You’ve got no chance to make it into Q3 and Q4 unless truly everything fits. In the case of ‘Eki’ and particularly Edo (Mortara) everything fit today.”

With Mattias Ekström (Red Bull Audi A5 DTM) Audi was the only manufacturer to reach the final qualifying segment (Q4) with two vehicles at the Red Bull Ring. The Swede from Audi Sport Team Abt Sportsline set the fastest time in Q3 and missed a



spot on the front row by merely 27 thousandths of a second – another indication of how incredibly thin the air is in the 2012 DTM.

Mortara's team-mate Filipe Albuquerque (TV Movie Audi A5 DTM) secured position eight on the grid after the Portuguese, in the second free practice session on Saturday morning at 1m 25.654s, had posted the fastest time of the weekend that was not equaled in qualifying.

Miguel Molina (Red Bull Audi A5 DTM) and Mike Rockenfeller (Schaeffler Audi A5 DTM), both from Audi Sport Team Phoenix, are tackling the 47-lap race on Sunday at 13:30 (starting at 13:15 live on "das Erste") from grid positions twelve and 13. Adrien Tambay (Audi ultra A5 DTM) and Timo Scheider (AUTO TEST Audi A5 DTM) took positions 15 and 16 in qualifying. Rahel Frey (E-POSTBRIEF Audi A5 DTM) was eliminated in Q1. On position 21, though, the Swiss outperformed the former Formula 1 driver David Coulthard.

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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. Subject to a positive decision by the responsible competition authorities, the Italian sports motorcycle manufacturer Ducati Motor Holding S.p.A. will also belong to the Audi Group. 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 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.