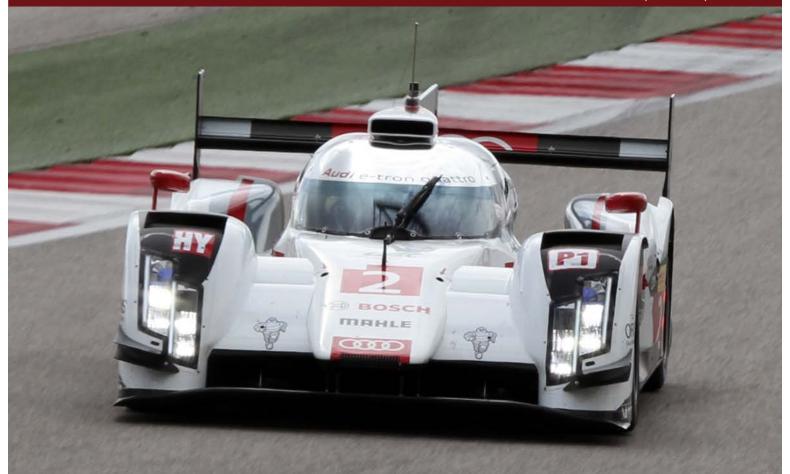
Audi Secured 1-2 Finish at COTA

FIA WEC >> 2014 Six Hours of COTA

By: Kevin Sims
Photos: Fred Sims, Kevin Sims, John Sims



Top: The No. 2 Audi Sport Team Joest R18 e-tron quattro took the checkered flag in Austin, TX.



ustin, TX - Sept. 20, 2014 -Audi captured a definitive victory at the 2014 Six Hours of COTA giving them their second consecutive one-two finish of the FIA WEC season. The No. 2 Audi Sport Team Joest, piloted by Marcel Fassler, André Lotterer and Benoit Treluyer, took the checkered flag a mere 53 seconds ahead of the team's No. 1 car with Loïc Duval, Tom Kristensen and Lucas Di Grassi driving. The race was marked by a sudden, severe downpour about 90 minutes after the start. The "sheet of rain" effect caused nearly a dozen racecars to spin out, including many front-runners.

After a 50-minute delay, the racecontinued behind a safety car. Both Audi diesel hybrid racecars kept their rain tires afterthe restart, as the track



was still wet. Fifteen minutes later, Audi decided to switch car No. 2 to intermediates. With the better-suited tires, Benoît Tréluyer defended the lead before changing to slicks an hour later.

"It was a very difficult race. The heavy downpour and our decision at the right moment to be the first to switch to rain tires all played a crucial part in our one-two victory," explained Dr. Wolfgang Ullrich, Head of Audi Motorsport.

Toyota Racing's No. 8 car piloted by Sebastien Buemi, Anthony Davidson and Nicolas Lapierre finished third overall after starting on pole, but hydroplaned into a gravel trap as a result of the sudden rain.

After a strong qualifying performance, the two Porsche 919 Hybrids finished fourth and fifth overall. Porsche 919 HybridNo.14, driven by Romain Dumas, Neel Jani and Marc Lieb, led for much of the six-hour contest. After the rain delay's restart, Jani was at the wheel of No. 14 in third with sticky intermediate tires. He soon took the lead and, after 105 laps, he handed it over to Lieb who went out on race slicks.

"It was super to take over the Porsche 919 Hybrid as the leading car. After my







pit stop the engine suddenly lost power. Therefore, I couldn't defend the lead in the end," lamented Marc Lieb.

The Porsche 919 HybridNo.14 finished in fourth, while Timo Bernhard, Brendon Hartley and Mark Webber brought the No. 20 Porsche 919 Hybridhome in fifth.

LM GTE Pro Class

The No. 92 Team Manthey Porsche 911 RSR piloted by Patrick Pilet and Frédéric Makowiecki ran a solid race and looked like they may win their class. They held the lead until shortly before the finish, ultimately beaten to the flag by a slight 16 seconds. Aston Martin Racing's No. 97 car, driven by Darren Turner and Stefan Mucke, won the LM GTE Pro class, despite qualifying second.

"Our 911 RSR handled the wet track very well. We were able to take the lead and even build up a bit of a margin. But once the track dried, we had no chance against the Aston. Still, we achieved a podium result," explained Porsche Works driver Patrick Pilet. AA







