

27/07/2020 – No 40 – ADAC GT Masters

## Plenty of excitement: ADAC GT Masters season opener at Lausitzring

- **Audi aces Patric Niederhauser and Kelvin van der Linde are the defending title holders**
- **Strong field of entrants with more than 30 super sports cars**

Munich: The hunt is on! Can Patric Niederhauser (28, CH) and Kelvin van der Linde (24, ZA, both Rutronik Racing) in the Audi become the first drivers ever to defend the ADAC GT Masters title, or will the opposition strike back? The first round of the highly competitive GT racing series, featuring more than 30 super sports cars, will start at the Lausitzring this weekend (31st July to 2nd August). SPORT1 will broadcast the races live on Saturday and Sunday at 1 pm. Racing can also be watched online as livestream at [sport1.de](http://sport1.de), [adac.de/motorsport](http://adac.de/motorsport) and [youtube.com/adac](http://youtube.com/adac).

### Key facts, DEKRA Lausitzring, Klettwitz, Races 1 and 2 of 14

**Track length:** 3.478 km

**Layout:** 12 turns (5 right-hand, 7 left-hand), racing in an anti-clockwise direction

**Winners 2017, Race 1:** Robert Renauer/Sven Müller (Precote Herberth Motorsport-Porsche 911 GT3 R)

**Winners 2017, Race 2:** Ezequiel Perez Companc/Mirko Bortolotti (GRT Grasser Racing Team-Lamborghini Huracán)

**TV pictures from the ADAC GT Masters at the Lausitzring:** See attachment for summary of TV broadcasting times.

### What's new in 2020?

The Bentley Continental GT3 from T3 HRT Motorsport is the most spectacular addition to the field. The Mercedes-AMG teams will compete with a totally revised car. HTP Winward Motorsport, Zakspeed BKK Mobil Oil Racing team and Toksport WRT will field the evo version of the racing car from south-west Germany. Team WRT from Belgium are one of the most successful GT3 teams around on the international scene and will be making their debut in the ADAC GT Masters. After a number of guest starts last year, Toksport WRT and SSR Performance will be contesting their first full season in the series with a Porsche 911 GT3 R. Tyre partner, Pirelli, will provide the field with new tyres this year.

### The stars in the field

Once again in 2020, the ADAC GT Masters has an impressive field of top-class entrants, including drivers with Formula 1 and IndyCar experience and sports car aces. With defending champions, van der Linde and Niederhauser, there will be six former champions in the field – Maximilian Götz (34, GER, HTP-Winward Motorsport), Daniel Keilwitz (30, GER, Team Zakspeed BKK Mobil Oil Racing), Christopher Mies (31, GER, Montaplast by Land-Motorsport ) and Robert Renauer (35, GER, Precote Herberth Motorsport). Two winners of the FIA GT World Cup, Maro Engel (34, Monte Carlo, Toksport WRT) and Raffaele Marciello (25, ITA, HTP-Winward Motorsport), will compete in the ADAC GT Masters. Six manufacturers – Audi, Bentley, BMW, Lamborghini, Mercedes-AMG and Porsche – intend to field around 20 works drivers. And, speaking of drivers go, there are more than 15

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newcomers, including Porsche works driver, Simona de Silvestro (31, CH, K us Team75 Bernhard) and DTM race winner, Joel Eriksson (22, SWE, Schubert Motorsport).

### The favourites

It's difficult to talk in terms of a favourite in the ADAC GT Masters, as the field is so hotly contested. In the official pre-season tests, more than 20 vehicles were covered by just one second at times. The best time of anyone in testing was achieved by Raffaele Marciello in the Mercedes-AMG, closely followed by drivers from two other manufacturers, defending champion, Kelvin van der Linde (Audi) and Sven M uller (27, GER, Precote Herberth Motorsport) in the Porsche. A look at the statistics will also quickly show that exciting motor racing is more or less guaranteed at the Lausitzring. In the 22 races held there by the ADAC GT Masters so far, cars from six different brands have been winners.

### The local favourites

The Lausitzring is the home circuit of BWT M ucke Motorsport. The Berlin-based outfit will field two Audi R8 LMS supercars this season, and for three of the team's four drivers, the opening weekend will also be a home fixture. Stefan M ucke (38) comes from Berlin as does series newcomer, Mike Beckhusen (20). Beckhusen shares the team's second R8 LMS with Igor Walilko (22, PL), whose hometown of Zielona G ora is only 150 kilometres from the Lausitzring. T3 HRT Motorsport from Radebeul also only have a short trip to the circuit in Brandenburg.

### The circuit

The Lausitzring is back on the ADAC GT Masters calendar for the first time since 2017. The 3.478 km circuit is made up of oval track and of sections in the infield. The races at the Lausitzring will take place in the absence of spectators while following hygiene and infection protection measures developed by the ADAC GT Masters and approved by the authorities.

### ADAC GT Masters eSports Championship

The ADAC GT Masters eSports Championship will stage the first of this season's eight races on Saturday at 6.30 pm. 20 participants and four guest starters will compete on the virtual version of the Lausitzring. Prize money this season totals some 80,000 euros. The race will be streamed live on [youtube.com/adac](https://youtube.com/adac) and [adac.de/motorsport](https://adac.de/motorsport).

### Comments in the run-up to the weekend

**Kelvin van der Linde (Rutronik Racing, Audi R8 LMS):** "I've raced in the ADAC GT Masters for many years now but have never had the same team-mate or same outfit for two years in a row. It's different now. I see that as being something very positive, because we can continue where we left off last year. We have a great team and an excellent package. Our goal is very clear, we aim to win."

**Patric Niederhauser (Rutronik Racing, Audi R8 LMS):** "Everyone will start out with the same points total of zero again and will have an equal chance. Defending the title is obviously our goal, but of course, we also know how high the standard is. It feels even higher this year than in previous seasons. We will also need a bit of luck, for sure, but still, we are very well equipped."

### Race calendar for the 2020 ADAC GT Masters (subject to official approval)

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 31/07/20 - 02/08/20 | Lausitzring  |
| 14/08/20 - 16/08/20 | N urburgring |
| 18/09/20 - 20/09/20 | Hockenheim   |
| 02/10/20 - 04/10/20 | Sachsenring  |



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16/10/20 - 18/10/20 Red Bull Ring (AUT)  
30/10/20 - 01/11/20 Circuit Zandvoort (NL)  
06/11/20 - 08/11/20 Motorsport Arena Oschersleben

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