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Winkelhock secures pole position for 100th ADAC GT Masters race

- Frank Kechele puts Ford GT in pole position for Saturday's race
- Ex-Formula 1 driver Winkelhock leads Prosperia C Abt to treble lockout
- Setback for championship leaders Alessi and Keilwitz in title chase

Prosperia C Abt driver Markus Winkelhock (32) will start from pole position in Sunday's 100th ADAC GT Masters race. In the ADAC GT Masters premiere at the Slovakia Ring in Slovakia, the ex-Formula 1 driver and FIA GT1 world champion led a trio of Prosperia C Abt Audi R8s not only to pole but also positions two and three. "I wasn't expecting to claim the top spot here, but I seem to have got my flying lap just right," said a delighted Winkelhock after securing his maiden pole in the Super Sports Car League. Meanwhile, Frank Kechele (27) in a Lambda Performance Ford GT was booking the best place on the grid for Saturday. This seventh pole position in his ADAC GT Masters career also hands Kechele the record for the most P1 starts in the history of the ADAC GT Masters.

Key facts: Slovakia Ring (Slovakia), Races 13 and 14 of the 2013 season

Track length: 5,992 metres

Weather: 17°C, cloudy

Pole position for Race 1: Frank Kechele (Lambda Performance, Ford GT), 2:02.341 mins

Pole position for Race 2: Markus Winkelhock (Prosperia C Abt Racing, Audi R8 LMS ultra), 2:02.584 mins

Ford GT driver Kechele comfortably secures fourth pole of season

In qualifying for the race on Saturday, Frank Kechele claimed his second pole of the 2013 ADAC GT Masters season by a comfortable margin. With his first flying lap, the Ford driver immediately slotted into P2 behind Dutchman Simon Knap (24) in the DB Motorsport BMW Z4 and then dislodged him at the second time of trying. "For a long time now, I haven't been able to describe any of my laps as perfect, but there really was no way I could have improved on this one," said a delighted Kechele. "The track is great fun, and in qualifying, the cool weather played into our hands, because it is in conditions like these that our Ford GT works best." Kechele beat Knap by 0.659 seconds. The second row is made up of Swiss driver Philipp Frommenwiler (24) in a Farnbacher Racing Porsche 911 and defending ADAC GT Masters champion Maximilian Götz (27) in a Polarweiss Racing Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3.

Perfect team performance for Audi outfit Prosperia C Abt Racing

Dark rain clouds over the Slovakia Ring brought the traffic out en masse at the start of qualifying for Sunday's race. Winkelhock clocked the best time at his third attempt, and it stood until the end of the session. Winkelhock's team-mates Christopher Haase (25) and René Rast (26) ensured a perfect team performance for Prosperia C Abt by locking out the front three positions on the grid. Haase, who starts the race alongside Winkelhock from the front row and who shares the cockpit of his Audi with former DTM driver Rahel Frey (27), narrowly missed out on a historic pole for himself. The Audi driver had claimed pole in the very first ADAC GT Masters race in 2007 and was just 0.022 seconds shy of repeating the feat in the 100th race. Behind the Audi trio is fourth-placed Dominik Baumann (20) in his Pixum Team Schubert BMW Z4.

Setback for championship leaders Alessi and Keilwitz

Current leaders Diego Alessi (41) and Daniel Keilwitz (24) in their Callaway Competition Corvette enter the final phase of the campaign on the penultimate race weekend of the season with a major handicap: Alessi skidded into the gravel in qualifying for Race 1 and now has to start from last place on the grid on Saturday. Meanwhile, Keilwitz was booking the P10 slot for Sunday.

Media information

Robert Renauer (28) in a Tonino powered by Herberth Motorsport Porsche 911, who is currently placed second in the standings, was also out of luck in qualifying: the winner of the previous race at the Lausitzring and his partner Martin Ragginger (25) had to settle for eleventh and 15th on the grid respectively.

The ADAC GT Masters again has eight events and 16 races scheduled for the 2013 season. All 16 races of the ADAC GT Masters are broadcast live in Germany, Austria and Switzerland on free-to-air TV channel kabel eins on Saturdays and Sundays, beginning at 12.00 noon. Super Sports Car League drivers will line up for the first time on the Spa-Francorchamps Formula 1 circuit and at the Slovakia Ring in Slovakia.

Tickets for all ADAC GT Masters races start at €20 and can be purchased online at www.adac.de, from any ADAC branch office, online at www.eventim.de or from one of the more than 20.000 Eventim outlets throughout Europe.

Result of Q1 (Top Five)

1. Frank Kechele (Lambda Performance, Ford GT), 2:02.341 mins
2. Simon Knap (DB Motorsport, BMW Z4 GT3), +0.659 sec
3. Philipp Frommenwiler (Farnbacher Racing, Porsche 911 GT3 R), +0.987 sec
4. Maximilian Götz (Polarweiss Racing, Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3), +0.993 sec
5. Christopher Mies (Prosperia C Abt Racing, Audi R8 LMS ultra), +1.141 sec

Result of Q2 (Top Five)

1. Markus Winkelhock (Prosperia C Abt Racing, Audi R8 LMS ultra), 2:02,584 mins
2. Christopher Haase (Prosperia C Abt Racing, Audi R8 LMS ultra), +0.022 sec
3. René Rast (Prosperia C Abt Racing, Audi R8 LMS ultra), +0.047 sec
4. Dominik Baumann (PIXUM Team Schubert, BMW Z4 GT3), +0.060 sec
5. Maximilian Buhk (Polarweiss Racing, Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3), +0.360 sec

Dates and venues: 2013 ADAC GT Masters

26th - 28th April:	etropolis Motorsport Arena Oschersleben
10th - 12th May:	Circuit Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium)
7th - 9th June:	Sachsenring
2nd - 4th August:	Nürburgring
9th - 11th August:	Red Bull Ring (Austria)
30th August - 1st September:	Lausitzring
13th - 15th September:	Slovakia Ring (Slovakia)
27th - 29th September:	Hockenheimring, Baden-Württemberg

ADAC GT Masters website: Access to Press Area via 'Press' in the top menu bar at www.adac.de/motorsport.

Media information



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