



## Strong showing for Audi at China GT Championship's 2017 season

- Xu Jia of Kings Linky takes pole for Audi in round 1 GT3 race
- Four Audi R8 LMS GT3s on grid
- Agreement sees Audi technical support provided and Audi Challenge Trophy for GTC class

Beijing, May 12, 2017 – The China GT Championship is set to roar into action this weekend with Audi teams lining up in both the GT3 and GTC races. China's Xu Jia of Kings Linky has secured pole position for round 1 of the GT3 championship, which takes place at Beijing's Audi Goldenport Motor Park race track this weekend. The Kings Linky car is one of four Audi R8 LMS GT3 entries in the first two races of the season, along with a second Kings Linky car and two entries from Audi R8 LMS Cup service provider, Phoenix Racing Asia.

The first round of the China GT series heralds an exciting cooperation between Audi Sport customer racing Asia and the China-based series, the second season of which begins this weekend. The agreement includes Audi technical support over the season and the formation of the Audi Challenge Trophy, contested by first-generation Audi R8 LMS Cup car entries in the GTC class.

"We are delighted to expand the scope of our Audi Sport customer racing Asia programme through our cooperation with the burgeoning China GT Championship," commented Bernd Goeres, Director of Audi Sport customer racing Asia. "Combined with our flagship Audi R8 LMS Cup, our partnership with the new Blancpain GT Series Asia, and participation in numerous leading GT3 and TCR events, we now have more Audi entries in more series across the region than ever before."

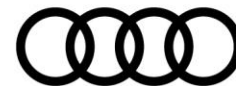
The two entries from Audi R8 LMS Cup service partner Phoenix Racing Asia are piloted by the Hong Kong pairing of 2012 Cup champion Marchy Lee and Alex Au and Malaysians Lim Keong Wee and Melvin Moh. The other Kings Linky Audi R8 LMS GT3 is piloted by Chinese drivers Wang Liang and Han Huilin.

In the GTC class, competing for both the class title and the Audi Challenge Trophy, are China's Qin Tianqi of Spirit Z-Racing, and JRM Force's Will Bamber, brother of Porsche factory driver and Le Mans winner Earl, who teams up with Bian Hao of China.

The partnership will also see the Audi R8 LMS Cup and the China GT Championship come together in China at the end of the season: at the Shanghai International Circuit from September 9 – 10, and the new Zhejiang track on October 20 – 21.

The 2017 China GT Championship gets underway today, Friday May 12, at the Audi Goldenport Motor Park in Beijing. The GTC and GT4 class race begins at 10:40 with the GT3 race starting at 13:50. Round 2 gets underway on Saturday May 13 at 13:30 for GTC/GT4 and 15:30 for GT3 (all times UTC +8).





The China GT Championship takes place across six race weekends on China's leading circuits, with 12 races in the GT3 class and 12 GTC/GT4 races, each 60 minutes in length.

For additional details, visit [www.audir8lmscup.com](http://www.audir8lmscup.com)

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