

Express train from Židovice reached for podium double at Nürburgring

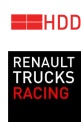
Nürburgring – Renaults of the Židovice based MKR Technology team scored high again! This time the Židovice express showed off at the fifth event of the European Truck Racing Championship at the track in Nürburgring, Germany. Not only that we caught a glimpse of silver medal in the opening main race but already the following one saw the pilots on three black and red trucks pursuing one another and at the end, two of them brought us a podium delight.

The German stop proved that the Židovice trucks have taken things to yet another level since the last race in the French town of Nogaro. The constructors have done a great job closing on this year's overlord Jochen Hahn. The introductory qualification confirmed this, the MKR Technology team missing the first spot in a close shave in the timed practice before Saturday's main race. Although Markus Oestreich seemed he would maintain his lead of the Super pole, he eventually lost it to Germany's Jochen Hahn in the last lap. A mere difference of two hundredths decided about the starting grid! *"I believed that Markus would defend the position but Jochen took us by storm in the last moment. Perhaps we have a reason to be a little upset but you can see the progress we've made, there was only a minimal difference. Hahn is getting better constantly but we're closing up on him and keep on hoping for a successful result this weekend,"* says MKR Technology's Mario Kress, never giving up the fight for the highest ranks.

Friday's timed practice predicted the order for the first five pilots in the main race. The Czech MKR Technology team celebrated silver when the first rank went to Jochen Hahn, his standing so far resembling the one of his fellow German in Formule 1 Sebastian Vettel. The Formule 1 series is coming to Nürburgring in less than two weeks for the German trophy. *"It was a great race and I'm genuinely happy for a second rank this time. Jochen is the king now but we've managed to get near him,"* said the satisfied Markus Oestreich of MKR Technology, who was accompanied to the podium by Uwe Nittel from Germany, his team colleagues Adam Lacko and Markus Bösiger collecting points for the fifth and ninth places.

The group from Židovice lost the afternoon handicap race podium only tightly. Markus Oestreich crossed the finishing line on the much hated fourth position. Adam Lacko lost lead in the very first lap. *"Unfortunately, they put me out of the game. There was a lot of overtaking later, so I think the crowd must have surely enjoyed the race, but I wasn't able to move up from the sixth position,"* commented Adam Lacko of MKR Technology.

The collisions were used by Buggyra's Vrščeký and Levett, the two battling over double in the front of the pack. Antonio Albacete showed why he's the reigning champion. The Spaniard worked through to the lead position and surpassed Vrščeký and Nittel to emerge as the winner. While Levett maintained his position among the first ten, Adam Lacko came sixth and his Swiss colleague from the Židovice team Markus Bösiger landed a place behind him.



Second day of the fifth championship event turned out significantly better for the Czech colours. Although the qualification did not go according to the wishes of the pilots from Židovice, starting from the third line they continued to treat the spectators to an amazing show. All three black and red machines created a formation resembling an express train and managed to hold it up to the finishing line. The north Bohemian team went to occupy positions from the fourth rank down, Markus Oestreich, Adam Lacko and Markus Bösiger respectively. Our pilots did not jump to the podium this time; instead, Albacete, Hahn and Nittel celebrated. *"It's pure joy to see guys drive like this. They showed a similar race several times before but there's always someone getting in front of us. After the afternoon race I have no doubts that we'll be able to fill the podium completely one day. With a bit more luck we would have been able to do so this afternoon already,"* states the head of MKR Technology in a self-assured manner.

In spite of its rather dramatic progress the afternoon race finished well and north Bohemia had a prominent representation in it. It was affected by an unexpected downpour of rain which turned the track into a slippery ground. Right in the first lap several crashes called for a red flag, the race being restarted later on. Double portion of bad luck had to be chewed by the leading man of the overall ranking, Germany's Jochen Hahn. He remained in a collision at the first start as well as after the second one, after which his machine ended up completely demolished. Front of the pack was occupied by Czech pilots exclusively. The top rank was defended by David Vršecký of Roudnice's Buggyra and the rest of the podium was taken by MKR Technology team, the silver going to Bösiger and the bronze to Lacko. Another hard hit sent Markus Oestreich to the seventh place. *"I had really bad luck there, I went into slide on the track and lost my position. I must admit that in that moment I felt kind of shaky in the car. The track was incredibly slippery but it was still a very good race,"* said Markus Oestreich, his colleague Lacko adding, *"Sunday was a spectators' delight. In the morning we drew attention with our formation and the afternoon rain made everything even more attractive. I enjoyed the race, it had the right energy and drive. There were hits, overtaking manoeuvres, nothing for bores."*

All four races had MKR Technology's representatives on the winners' podium – both MKR Technology and MKR Team 14 Juniors recording points for the overall ranking in the teams' competition, where they currently occupy the second and the fourth position.

Neither after the fifth stop of the series has the European Championship's classification changed. The German Jochen Hahn remains undefeated, followed by the reigning champion Albacete. The third rank belongs to Markus Oestreich. Adam Lacko is currently on the fifth place and Markus Bösiger on the seventh.

The following, already sixth in a row, event of the European Truck Racing Championship is taking us to the Russian track of Smolensk in less than three weeks (30.-31.7.).

