

2026 Belgian Grand Prix - Friday

Spa-Francorchamps, 17 July 2026 – Audi Revolut F1 Team completed a productive opening day at the Belgian Grand Prix, as the 2026 generation of Formula One cars tackled the legendary Spa-Francorchamps circuit for the first time. Across two practice sessions, the team focused on gathering valuable data while adapting to the circuit's evolving conditions, with risk of changing weather adding another layer to the day's programme.

Nico Hulkenberg and Gabriel Bortoleto each completed different test programmes throughout FP1 and FP2, successfully evaluating a range of tyre compounds and aerodynamic configurations without interruption. With a wealth of data collected across both sessions, the team now turns its attention to overnight analysis as it looks to optimise the R26 ahead of qualifying tomorrow.

Nico Hulkenberg (Car 27):

FP1: 12th / 1:48.962 (23 laps)

FP2: 17th / 1:48.333 (16 laps)

"Today was all about learning. We tried a few different things with the car, gathered some useful information and now it's up to us to process everything overnight and make sure we put the best package on track tomorrow.

"We know it won't be easy to break into the top ten here, but there's still everything to play for. You never know how a weekend can unfold, so the focus is on putting everything together and making the most of every opportunity."

Gabriel Bortoleto (Car 5):

FP1: 10th / 1:48.406 (18 laps)

FP2: 13th / 1:47.952 (17 laps)

"It's been a regular, productive Friday for us. FP1 and FP2 are now in the books, and we've gathered quite a good amount of data from both sessions. There's still plenty to improve and a lot more to learn, and that will be our focus for tonight. We'll be going through all the data, understanding where we can extract more performance, making sure both the car and I are in the best possible place for qualifying tomorrow."

Contact:

press@audif1.com

Will Ponissi, Head of Corporate and Race Communications, william.ponissi@audif1.com, +41 79 591 57 85

Nives Pavicic, Communications Manager, nives.pavicic@audif1.com, +41 76 384 07 50

Elena Rovelli, Communications Manager, elena.rovelli@audif1.com, +41 78 209 18 57

About Audi Revolut F1 Team

Audi Revolut F1 Team is the official factory team of Audi, as the brand enters the FIA Formula 1 World Championship for the first time in 2026. This project, in which Audi will create its own hybrid drive system ('power unit') developed in Germany, represents the ultimate expression of the manufacturer's 'Vorsprung durch Technik' philosophy and embodies a long-term commitment to compete at the pinnacle of motorsport with the clear objective of challenging for world championships by 2030. Audi Revolut F1 Team is based in three locations: the power unit is developed by Audi Formula Racing GmbH at the Audi Competence Center Motorsport in Neuburg, Germany; the chassis is engineered and race operations are managed from the state-of-the-art facilities of Audi Motorsport AG in Hinwil, Switzerland; while the Audi Motorsport Technology Centre UK in Bicester, United Kingdom, provides a foothold in the heart of 'Motorsport Valley', with direct access to top F1 talent and key strategic partners. This integrated structure provides complete control over the project, embedding a culture of precision, innovation, and relentless performance. Audi's entry is strategically timed to coincide with new Formula 1 regulations focused on increased electrification, as the electric share of the hybrid drive is raised to almost 50%, and the introduction of 100% sustainable fuels. The entry into Formula 1, one of the most important platforms in the world, serves as a high-tech catalyst for the entire Audi brand, acting as a global stage to demonstrate technological leadership and connect with new, diverse audiences by creating cultural impact that resonates far beyond the race track.

