MINI MOTORSPORT COMMUNICATIONS



Media Information Qatar Cross Country Rally 16 April 2018

Qatar Cross Country Rally 2018 – Round 4, FIA Cross Country Rally World Cup.

- Jakub 'Kuba' Przygonski and co-driver Tom Colsoul to go for the win at Qatar Cross Country Rally in a MINI John Cooper Works Rally.
- Qatar Cross Country Rally is the fourth round of the FIA Cross Country Rally World Cup and the third straight desert race.
- Rally competitors to face 1970.65km of intense heat across varied terrain, of which 1395.24km are off-road special sections.

Munich. The seventh edition of the Qatar Cross Country Rally is round four of the 2018 FIA Cross Country Rally World Cup and the last dedicated desert race this season. Five days of cross-country rally is earmarked for the competitors, taking in a varied blend of desert sand and dunes mixed with rocky terrain.

Taking the challenge of Qatar will be the MINI Family crew of Jakub 'Kuba' Przygonski (POL) and co-driver Tom Colsoul (BEL). The pairing presently sits in second place within the FIA World Cup after recording a fourth, first and second place so far in 2018.

Przygonski and Colsoul will compete at Qatar with a MINI John Cooper Works Rally, which also serves as part of its continuous development programme ahead of the 2019 Dakar. MINI Motorsport partner X-raid will be on site in Qatar providing technical and race support for the Orlen Team-branded MINI John Cooper Works Rally.

The start of Qatar Cross Country Rally begins Tuesday 17th April with scrutineering and competitor sign on. Wednesday 18th sees an evening opening ceremony combined with Leg 1, a Super Special Stage to determine start positions for Leg 2 – the first of four day-long races. All competitors, especially the motorcycle class, will have to face not only tough terrain throughout the rally, but also the exhausting desert heat (37-45°C).

The end of the final stage, Leg 5, on Sunday 22nd April will be followed with the official event results and celebrations for all race finishers and fans of long distance rallying.

Jakub 'Kuba' Przygonski: "Tom and I like the Qatar round because of the varied terrain. Last year we finished in second place and this was a good result because it is not such an easy race on the body – the dunes and the heat can be very fierce. Sandstorms are also something to think about!"

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For more information about Qatar Cross Country Rally 2018, please visit the host's event home page <u>here</u>.

FIA Cross Country Rally World Cup 2018 calendar

	Event	Date
1	Baja Russia	16-18 February
2	Dubai International Baja	9-10 March
3	Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge	24-29 March
4	Qatar Cross-Country Rally	17-22 April
5	Rally Kazakhstan	27 May-2 June
6	Italian Baja	21-24 June
7	Baja Spain	20-22 July
8	Hungarian Baja	9-12 August
9	Baja Poland	30 August-2 Sept
10	Rallye Oilibya du Maroc	3-9 October
11	Baja Portalegre 500	25-27 October

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