



Media Information  
2019 Dakar  
28 November 2018

**Five MINI John Cooper Works Rally to participate at 2019 Dakar.**

- **MINI Motorsport partner X-raid to field five MINI John Cooper Works Rally cars at 2019 Dakar.**
- **X-raid MINI JCW Rally Team will consist of four established MINI Family crews.**
- **2018 FIA Cross Country Rally World Cup champion Jakub “Kuba” Przygonski to compete under the banner of ORLEN X-raid Team.**

**Munich. MINI Motorsport partner X-raid has announced its intention to field five MINI John Cooper Works Rally at the 41<sup>st</sup> edition of The Dakar, 6-17<sup>th</sup> January 2019. The five vehicles have already completed pre-Dakar tests and are now en-route to Peru, South America, the chosen arena for the toughest long-distance cross-country event on the 2019 rally calendar.**

The five MINI JCW Rally cars and their MINI Family crews are more than ready for the challenge of the Peruvian desert landscapes and mountain sections. Over the course of the 2018 rally calendar, the X-raid supported cars and crews have had a successful year.

The Silk Way Rally 2018 (Russia edition) was one of two notable wins for Yazeed Al-Rajhi (KSA) and his co-driver Timo Gottschalk (GER), the second being winners of Rally Kazakhstan. The Spanish pairing of Joan “Nani” Roma and Alex Haro took three wins in 2018 – Baja Portalegre 500, Turkmen Desert Race, Hungarian Baja. As a former winner of Dakar in both car (2014) and motorcycle (2004) categories, Roma is still hungry for Dakar success.

Waving the flag for Argentina in a third MINI JCW Rally will be the crew of Orlando Terranova and Ronnie Graue. Their win in the desert conditions of the 2018 Desafio Inca will stand them in good stead for Dakar 2019, where the heat and sand will be pivotal to determine the front runners in the early stages. Joining the aforementioned crews will be the experienced duo of Boris Garafulic (CHI) and co-driver Filipe Palmeiro (POR). All four crews will run at Dakar under the banner of X-raid MINI JCW Rally Team.

The fifth MINI JCW Rally to run at Dakar will be with the ORLEN X-raid Team crew of Jakub “Kuba” Przygonski (POL) and co-driver Tom Colsoul (BEL). Four wins in



nine outings helped Przygonski secure the 2018 FIA Cross Country Rally World Cup championship title – and with this in mind, the young Polish star is more than ready for the 2019 Dakar.

**Przygonski:** “My goal for January is to do better than I did at the 2018 Dakar. I finished 15<sup>th</sup> in my first Dakar, seventh in 2017, and fifth last year. Tom and I are quick and have found a good rhythm over the course of the season. We have completed a lot of kilometres in recent months and are ready for the fight.”

**Sven Quandt – CEO X-raid:** “We have an impressive line-up in our MINI John Cooper Works Rally cars. Nani has already won the Dakar once with us and Kuba is very determined after his World Cup win. He has learned a lot this season and matured as a driver. He is certainly capable of causing the odd upset. And you underestimate Yazeed and Orly at your peril. They are both very quick and, if they avoid any problems, are potential top-five drivers. We have worked together with Boris for a long time. I hope he makes it into the top ten this time. So far, he has always just missed out.”

For more information about the 2019 Dakar, please visit the host’s event home page [here](#).

## **Media Contact.**

Head of BMW Group Design, Innovations & Motorsports Communications  
Benjamin Titz  
Telephone: +49 (0)179 – 743 8088  
Email: [Benjamin.titz@bmw.de](mailto:Benjamin.titz@bmw.de)

MINI Motorsport Communications  
Matthias Schepke  
Telephone: +49 (0)151 – 601 90450  
Email: [matthias.schepke@bmw.de](mailto:matthias.schepke@bmw.de)

## **Media Website.**

[www.press.bmwgroup.com/global](http://www.press.bmwgroup.com/global)

## **MINI Motorsport on the web.**

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/bmwgroupsports](http://www.facebook.com/bmwgroupsports)

Red Bull Content Pool Link & Vanity URL for all assets related to the X-raid MINI JCW Team:  
[www.redbullcontentpool.com/XraidMINI](http://www.redbullcontentpool.com/XraidMINI)

Link for still images only:

<https://www.redbullcontentpool.com/motorsports/AP-1WZF5BE712111>