

Press Release.  
26th March 2014.

## **Large MINI contingent at the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge // Dakar winner Joan “Nani” Roma starts in the MINI ALL4 Racing.**

Munich (DE). The FIA World Cup for Cross Country Rallies is in full swing. The next great challenge on the race calendar, the third, comes in the form of the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge, from 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> April – the 4<sup>th</sup> rally of the year. MINI and the Monster Energy X-raid Team travel to the third round of the 2014 season looking to build on solid recent results.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the championship, the Baja Russia, local favourite Vladimir Vasilyev finished second in the MINI ALL4 Racing, which is based on the MINI John Cooper Works Countryman and fourth at the 3<sup>rd</sup> round, the Baja Italy. His young team-mate Martin Kaczmarek (PL) came home fourth and fifth.

There will be a much larger contingent of MINI ALL4 Racings on display in Abu Dhabi. The X-raid team will run six cars in the desert. Among the drivers in action is Dakar winner Joan “Nani” Roma (ES), who returns to the cockpit for the first time since his triumph at the toughest rally in the world back in January of this year. The Spaniard arrives as defending champion, having won last year’s Desert Challenge.

The Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge was first held in 1991. This year’s demanding route takes the competitors on a 2,015.8-kilometre trek through the desert. The conditions are very similar to those encountered at the Dakar Rally: fine desert sand, in which the cars can easily become stuck. This season, the MINI ALL4 Racing has already proven on more than one occasion that it can reliably, and seemingly effortlessly, overcome these extreme conditions.

### **MINI drivers at the 2014 Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge.**

#### **#302 MINI ALL4 Racing.**

Monster Energy X-raid Team  
Joan “Nani” Roma/Michel Périn (ES/FR)

#### **#303 MINI ALL4 Racing.**

X-raid Team  
Vladimir Vasilyev/Konstantin Zhiltsov (RU/RU)



**#306 MINI ALL4 Racing.**

X-raid Team

Erik Van Loon/Wouter Rosegaar (NL/NL)

**#308 MINI ALL4 Racing.**

X-raid Team

Martin Kaczmarski/Filipe Palmeiro (PL/PT)

**#309 MINI ALL4 Racing.**

X-raid Team

Stefan Schott/Andreas Schulz (DE/DE).

**#311 MINI ALL4 Racing.**

X-raid Team

Aidyn Rakhimbayev/Anton Nikolaev (KZ/RU)

**FIA World Cup for Cross Country Rallies, race calendar:**

14.02. – 16.02. Baja Russia

13.03. – 16.03. Baja Italy

06.04. – 10.04. Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge

20.04. – 25.04. Cross Country Rally Qatar

18.05. – 25.05. Pharaons Rally Egypt

18.07. – 20.07. Baja Aragon

14.08. – 17.08. Baja Hungary

28.08. – 30.08. Baja Poland

03.10. – 09.10. Rally Morocco

30.10. – 02.11. Baja Portugal



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