



Press Release.
03 October 2014.

Seven MINI ALL4 Racing at the Rally Morocco // Final test before 2015 Dakar Rally // Vasilyev still leading the World Cup.

Munich (DE). MINI and the Monster Energy X-raid team are facing the penultimate round in the FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Rallies, the Rally Morocco. It will be the final big desert adventure before the biggest and toughest challenge in rallying: the 2015 Dakar Rally, held in South America.

2014 Dakar winner Joan "Nani" Roma (ES) will be behind the wheel of a MINI ALL4 Racing car in Morocco with co-driver Michel Perin (FR) by his side again. Roma already won two events this year. His home event, the Baja Aragón as well as the Desafío Inca in Peru, which was, however, not part of the World Cup. X-raid will compete with six more MINI ALL4 Racing cars in North Africa, including the car of Orlando Terranova (AR) and co-driver Rolando Graue (FR).

Vladimir Vasilyev/Konstantin Zhiltsov (RU/RU) are still leading the overall classification in the World Cup. They are currently leading with 192 points ahead of second-placed Nasser Al-Attiyah (136/QT). Vasilyev is determined to expand his lead with just two events to go. "Rally Morocco will be a tough challenge, but as always I'll do my best to have a successful rally," Vasilyev said. "The MINI ALL4 Racing is a really fast and reliable car, especially in the desert as it has proven many times so far. I'm really optimistic for North Africa."

The Rally Morocco, held around the cities of Erfoud, Zagora and the capital Marrakesh this year, is one of the toughest but also one of the most scenic rally events in the world. It was held for the first time in 1934 and took place almost every year until 1988. In 2013 it was back in the calendar and will be held for the 25th time this year. The event consists of long, desert crossing stages with a lot of large dunes with fine sand as well as narrow sections through the challenging Atlas mountains. The characteristics are similar to the Dakar Rally. It is a perfect opportunity for drivers and engineers alike to prepare for the Dakar Rally in January.

The participants will cover 1991 kilometres in six days, 1441 of them in special stages. "I'm looking forward to this great adventure," Nani Roma said ahead of the World Cup event. "I really like driving the MINI ALL4 Racing on sandy dunes and also on narrow roads. It's a good practice for the Dakar Rally in January. We will do our best to get a good result."



2014 Rally Morocco MINI driver line-up.

#300 MINI ALL4 Racing.

X-raid Team

Vladimir Vasilyev/Konstantin Zhiltsov (RU/RU)

#304 MINI ALL4 Racing.

X-raid Team

Martin Kaczmarski/Tapio Suominen (PL/FI)

#305 MINI ALL4 Racing.

X-raid Team

Erik van Loon/Wouter Rosegaar (NL/NL)

#306 MINI ALL4 Racing.

Monster Energy X-raid Team

Orlando Terranova/Rolando Graue (AR/AR)

#307 MINI ALL4 Racing.

Monster Energy X-raid Team

Joan "Nani" Roma/Michel Perin (ES/FR)

#316 MINI ALL4 Racing.

X-raid Team

Aidyn Rakhimbayev/Anton Nikolaev (KZ/RU)

#328 MINI ALL4 Racing.

X-raid Team

Eddy Chevallier/Peter van Merksteijn (BE/NL)

FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Rallies: Classifications (Top 10).

01	Vladimir Vasilyev (RU) / X-raid Team	192 pts.
02	Nasser Al-Attiyah (QT)	136
03	Yazeed Al-Rajhi (SA)	120
04	Marek Dabrowski (PL)	99
05	Miroslav Zapletal (CZ)	94
06	Adam Malysz (PL)	89
07	Reinaldo Varela (BR)	56
08	Martin Kaczmarski (PL) / X-raid Team	54
09	Erik van Loon (NL) / X-raid Team	48
10	Orlando Terranova (AR) / X-raid Team	37



Race calendar: FIA World Cup for Cross-Country Rallies.

14/02 – 16/02 Baja Russia
13/03 – 16/03 Baja Italy
06/04 – 10/04 Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge
20/04 – 25/04 Sealine Cross-Country Rally Qatar
18/05 – 25/05 Pharaons Rally Egypt
18/07 – 20/07 Baja Aragón
14/08 – 16/08 Baja Hungary
28/08 – 30/08 Baja Poland
03/10 – 09/10 Rally Morocco
30/10 – 02/11 Baja Portugal

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