

Press release  
22 July 2016

**Silk Way Rally 2016 – Vasilyev clinches second place in Stage 13 to retain third position in the overall standings. Four of the five MINI ALL4 Racing crews are now within the top five positions ahead of tomorrow’s penultimate Stage.**

With just two Stages left to play out in this year’s gruelling Silk Way Rally, the MINI ALL4 Racing team are inching closer to victory. Following Stage 13 of the event, all five MINI ALL4 Racing pairings are now inside the top seven of the overall classification.

**Munich.** Today’s 724km Alashan-Wuhai route continued east across the sandy deserts of inner Mongolia. A steady pace at the start of the Stage was quickly replaced by fast and tight tracks through the dunes.

The Russian duo of Vladimir Vasilyev and Konstantin Zhiltsov (X-raid Team) continued to demonstrate their consistent pace by being the top MINI ALL4 Racing team home today. Undeterred by the relentlessly hot and dusty conditions, the duo capitalised on an opportunity to break away from the competition, bringing the #101 vehicle across the line in second place.

“Today was a good Stage and we covered a lot of kilometres,” said Zhiltsov. “When the road began to open up, we saw our chance to go ahead. We didn’t make any mistakes and the car was good. There is no damage to the car and we didn’t get any punctures.”

Meanwhile, the MINI ALL4 Racing (#103) crew of Yazeed Al Rajhi (KSA) and Timo Gottschalk (GER) completed Stage 13 in fourth place to retain their second place position in the overall standings.

“We didn’t push too hard today, we took it easy to ensure no mistakes,” said Al Rajhi. “The Stage was very good – in the end the terrain was rough but in the beginning stages it was very good. The conditions were better today than yesterday. We’re nearly at the end of the race now and we want to keep our position and see if anything can happen in the last moment.”

However, it wasn’t the day for the MINI ALL4 Racing (#105) crew of Harry Hunt (GB) and Andreas Schulz (GER) as they suffered two punctures at the beginning of the Stage. But despite a frustrating start, the pairing still managed to complete the race in good time, finishing seventh, but as a result now slip back to fourth position overall.

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Aidyn Rakhimbayev (KAZ) and Anton Nikolaev (RUS) of MINI ALL4 Racing #106 completed Stage 13 in sixth, while the MINI ALL4 Racing #109 pairing of Bauyrzhan Issabayev (KAZ) and Vladimir Demyanenko (RUS) finished in 16<sup>th</sup> place. Rakhimbayev is now in fifth place overall with Issabayev in seventh.

The penultimate Stage of the 2016 Silk Way Rally will see the MINI ALL4 Racing crews push ahead on the Wuhai-Hohhot route on 23 July. This 754km Stage is mainly sandy terrain with fast tracks. However, the dunes towards the end of the route could create a last-minute challenge for even the most experienced drivers.

For further information about the Silk Way Rally 2016, please visit:

[www.silkwayrally.com](http://www.silkwayrally.com)

### Silk Way Rally 2016: MINI ALL4 Racing Overall Classification after Stage 13

Position	Driver	Co-driver	#	Team	Time
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Yazeed Al Rajhi (KSA)	Timo Gottschalk (GER)	103	X-raid Team	+00h:31m:27s
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Vladimir Vasilyev (RUS)	Konstantin Zhiltsov (RUS)	101	G-Energy Team	+00h:51m:51s
4 <sup>th</sup>	Harry Hunt (GB)	Andreas Schulz (GER)	105	X-raid Team	+01h:57m:02s
5 <sup>th</sup>	Aidyn Rakhimbayev (KAZ)	Anton Nikolaev (RUS)	106	Astana Motorsport	+02h:10m:07s
7 <sup>th</sup>	Bauyrzhan Issabayev (KAZ)	Vladimir Demyanenko (RUS)	109	Astana Motorsport	+03h:58m:23s

Find reports, photos and videos in high resolution of previous MINI ALL4 Racing activity on the BMW Media Website by clicking [here](#).

For any queries, please contact:

MINI Motorsport Communications

Danilo Coglianese  
Telefon: +49-176-601-72405  
E-Mail: [danilo.coglianese@bmwgroup.com](mailto:danilo.coglianese@bmwgroup.com)  
Internet: [www.press.bmwgroup.com](http://www.press.bmwgroup.com)