

Media Information  
Dakar Rally 2018  
09 January 2018

## Dakar Rally 2018 – Stage 3: Pisco - San Juan de Marcona

- Stage 3, Ica Desert, proves to be another challenging day for all Dakar competitors.
- Jakub 'Kuba' Przygonski completes Stage 3 with 9<sup>th</sup> place result.
- Garafulic back up to pace to complete today's stage in 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Munich.** Day three of Dakar 2018 has once again provided drama from yet another tough, difficult special stage. Stage 3 consisted of 208 liaison kilometres, but it was the 296km route across the Ica Desert that proved troublesome.

Jakub 'Kuba' Przygonski (POL) and Tom Colsoul (BEL) were the first of the MINI crews to cross the Stage 3 finish line. Mindful of the troublesome desert sand and dunes, plus Colsoul still recovering from yesterday's sickness, Przygonski and his co-driver pushed hard with caution to secure a good 9<sup>th</sup> place result and are now placed 11<sup>th</sup> overall.

**Przygonski:** "Today was quite tough, not so easy navigation. Some places it was really hard to see the dunes because the sun was right at the top of them and because it was uphill and downhill it was not easy. We have to be really focussed because the terrain changes from sand to stones. We had one puncture, which we changed quite quickly."

Boris Garafulic (CHI) and co-driver Filipe Palmeiro (POR) started Stage 3 in a determined mood after yesterday's incident packed Stage 2, which saw them return very late to the overnight bivouac and a 11-hour deficit to the race leader. However, today the MINI John Cooper Works Rally crew completed Stage 3 in 13<sup>th</sup> and this just goes to show how resilient cross-country rally crews really are.

**Garafulic:** "It was a good stage for us. We didn't have any problems even though it was very demanding with the sun on our eyes."

Completing Stage 2 in 16<sup>th</sup> place was the crew of Orlando Terranova (ARG) and Bernardo Graue (Arg). Despite some issues with navigation and tyre damage, another consistent placing has led to the pair retain a top ten placing in the overall classification with 8<sup>th</sup> place.

Yazeed Al Rajhi (KSA) with co-driver Timo Gottschalk (DEU) were also victims of an incident on the previous day's Stage 2 and are desperately trying to claw back some of the seven hours they picked up while stranded in the dunes. Finishing 30<sup>th</sup> place in Stage 3 saw the pair pull back some positions to leave them 49<sup>th</sup> overall.

**Al Rajhi:** "It was a good day even though we started in a late position, which meant it was very dusty so we took it easy. Then we saw Mikko stuck in the dunes so we stayed to help him out and then we finished together."

Bad luck also called on the crew of Mikko Hirvonen (FIN) and Andreas Schulz (DEU). Hirvonen had started to push hard and was on course for another excellent top ten stage result. But midway through the special stage Hirvonen hit deep sand and became stuck. The outcome of this was completing the stage in 39<sup>th</sup>.

**Hirvonen:** "We slid sideways into a dune and got stuck in the sand. We couldn't move forwards, backwards or sideways and had to spend time digging to get the spare wheels underneath the car. We lost a lot of time. It's a shame but that's how it is."

The Spanish duo of Joan 'Nani' Roma and co-pilot Alex Haro looked to be certain of a top five finish in Stage 3. Unfortunately, with approximately one kilometre left of the off-road special stage, Lady Luck dealt the hard-charging crew a really bad hand and they rolled their MINI John Cooper Works Rally. Even though the pair managed to finish the special stage, before completing the liaison stage Roma was taken to hospital for precautionary medical checks. The end result is the crew cannot now continue Dakar 2018.

Stage 4 will see competitors complete the loop of San Juan de Marcona - San Juan de Marcona. For more information about Dakar 2018, please visit the host's event home page [here](#).

## Dakar Rally 2018: MINI results after Stage 3

| Pos | Driver                  | Co-driver            | #   | MINI                         | Team        | Time                   |
|-----|-------------------------|----------------------|-----|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 8   | Orlando Terranova (ARG) | Bernardo Graue (Arg) | 307 | MINI John Cooper Works Rally | X-raid Team | 007:10:17<br>+00:35:19 |
| 11  | Jakub Przygonski (POL)  | Tom Colsoul (BEL)    | 312 | MINI John Cooper Works Rally | Orlen Team  | 007:19:11<br>+00:44:13 |
|     | Mikko Hirvonen          | Andreas Schulz       | 305 | MINI John                    | X-raid      | 008:43:20              |

# MINI MOTORSPORT COMMUNICATIONS



|    |                       |                       |     |                              |             |                        |
|----|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 20 | (FIN)                 | (DEU)                 |     | Cooper Works Buggy           | Team        | +02:08:22              |
| 49 | Yazeed Al Rajhi (KSA) | Timo Gottschalk (DEU) | 314 | MINI John Cooper Works Buggy | X-raid Team | 015:04:08<br>+08:29:10 |
| 55 | Boris Garafulic (CHI) | Filipe Palmeiro (POR) | 317 | MINI John Cooper Works Rally | X-raid Team | 018:41:55<br>+12:06:57 |

**Media Contact.**

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](https://www.facebook.com/bmwgroupsports)