



Media Information
Dakar Rally 2018
20 January 2018

Dakar Rally 2018 – Finale, Cordoba

- **Four MINI crews complete Dakar Rally 2018.**
- **Przygonski / Colsoul finish sixth to maintain fifth place overall.**
- **Boris Garafulic / Filipe Palmeiro move up to 13th.**

Munich. Dakar 2018 is over and, according to some of the MINI competitors, the 40th edition of the world-famous race was the toughest Dakar they have ever experienced. The past two weeks, ending in a short Stage 14 in Argentine city Cordoba today, has thrown many challenges at the drivers and navigators and only 43 of the 92 auto crews that started the race accomplished a Dakar finish. Four of the seven MINI crews entered were among the 43 auto crews who successfully completed what is, arguably, the world's toughest rally.

The greatest achievement has been that of Jakub 'Kuba' Przygonski (POL) and co-driver Tom Colsoul (BEL) who secured a solid fifth place overall in their MINI John Cooper Works Rally (#312). Przygonski's previous Dakar experience and the misfortune that befell some of his fellow MINI crews in this year's edition of the race, urged the Polish driver to exercise some caution and take a safe and steady route to the front of the field. His sensible approach paid off with him taking the accolade of first MINI to complete the 2018 Dakar.

A strong Stage 13 yesterday saw Boris Garafulic (CHD) and co-driver Filipe Palmeiro (POR) in the #317 MINI John Cooper Works Rally finish in 7th place to move three places up the general rankings to 13th ahead of the final stage today. A 12th place finish in today's final 120km special stage ensured the pairing maintained their overall placing of 13th at the race end.

For Mikko Hirvonen (FIN) and co-driver Andreas Schulz (GER) in the MINI John Cooper Works Buggy (#305) yesterday was a fun stage and left them feeling happy ahead of the final stage, even though the end result is not what they hoped for. A 15th place finish today saw the pairing end the race in 19th overall, but in doing so they made Dakar history as the first ever driver and co-driver to complete the race in the new MINI JCW Buggy, which made its debut this year. Hirvonen has been amazed by the buggy's performance and believes the vehicle is a strong future Dakar contender.

Close behind Hirvonen in today's stage and final rankings were Orlando Terranova (ARG) and Bernardo Graue (ARG) in the MINI John Cooper Works Rally (#307). A 16th place stage finish in Cordoba saw the pairing remain inside the top 20 at the finish line. It was not the result that local driver Terranova had aimed for, but he is focused now on analysing the data from the race to understand how to improve in future Dakar.

The MINI crews, along with the other competitors, now head to the end of race ceremony to join a huge 40th anniversary party staged by the organisers, which is expected to be attended by thousands of spectators.

MINI Family reports: Finale

Sebastian Mackensen, Head of MINI

"Congratulations to this year's Dakar winner, Carlos Sainz. And a huge well done and congratulations also go to Kuba Przygonski and Tom Colsoul on a hard-fought fifth place in the MINI John Cooper Works Rally. We are happy for the team and are proud of this performance. We knew how difficult it would be to make it onto the podium in Cordoba in one of the MINI John Cooper Works this year. Despite the early retirements and setbacks in this particularly unforgiving edition of the Dakar, the X-raid team of Sven Quandt showed great morale, fighting spirit and the team spirit typical of MINI, and refused to be discouraged, even in the face of bizarre racing incidents. Everyone who made it to the finish line at the Dakar deserves the greatest respect. We are looking forward to the next Dakar – we will be taking on this ultimate rally challenge once again in 2019!"

Sven Quandt, X-raid Team Principal

"It was quite a mixed Dakar; from the drivers' side I think there were unfortunately some mistakes that pulled us back quite a bit, but on the technical side we were astonished. The new MINI John Cooper Works Buggy was really impressive and lasted without any problems. Performance-wise it really showed that this is the right weapon for the future but the MINI John Cooper Works Rally was also good and, until Nani dropped out early due to a big hit in the car, we were in a good position. From a safety side, the cars were incredible; you could nearly make any roll and nobody was in jeopardy. Even if the car was 20 or 40kg heavier it didn't matter because we had super-safe cars and that's the most important thing for this race. Kuba did an incredible performance – driving very steady all the way through from the beginning. Fifth place is an incredible result for him. He shadowed the leaders

throughout the race, getting closer to the front and nobody was watching him. He and Tom made no mistakes – this is how you do a Dakar.”

Jakub Przygonski

“We are so happy to be at the finish. It was a tough race and not so easy. We checked and all of guys in front of us are very experienced at Dakar so we are happy to be in such a good group. I am one of the youngest, for sure, in the top five and top ten so I think we have to get some more experience and then we will be really, really fast. It was a good race for me and Tom, we had a good connection inside the car and our car was really good. For sure, the car was better than last year with less weight and better suspension and tyres. We had no issues all race, the car was definitely faster and everything worked really good for us.”

Orlando Terranova

“It was a difficult two weeks for the whole team. We never had a clean stage this year, with different problems of navigation or mistakes, but the only good thing was to push when we could in some stages and feel that the car was fast and we were on the pace. It was not a good Dakar for me but we need to analyse now and work out how to improve. The car is amazing; the response of the engine and the new package of suspension and tyres is very good.”

Mikko Hirvonen

“It’s been an amazing adventure again even though we didn’t get the result we wanted. It was definitely the toughest Dakar I have done even though I don’t have a lot of Dakar under my belt yet. This one is how I always imagined it would be and it was a tough two weeks but really fantastic. It’s a shame we didn’t get the result because the mechanics and the whole team worked so hard before Christmas to get everything ready. But, still I think everybody can be happy with the car they built because we were really quick in some places, even though the stage results didn’t always show it due to some mistakes. I think we can be really proud of what the team has done in the last six months – this Dakar has been hard work for everybody.”

Dakar Rally 2018: MINI final standings

Pos	Driver	Co-driver	#	MINI	Team	Time
5	Jakub Przygonski (POL)	Tom Colsoul (BEL)	312	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	Orlen X-raid Team	+02:45:24
13	Boris Garafulic (CHI)	Filipe Palmeiro (POR)	317	MINI John Cooper Works	MINI JCW	+12:49:42

MINI MOTORSPORT COMMUNICATIONS



				Rally	Rally Team	
19	Mikko Hirvonen (FIN)	Andreas Schulz (GER)	305	MINI John Cooper Works Buggy	MINI JCW Buggy Team	+16:20:28
20	Orlando Terranova (ARG)	Bernardo Graue (ARG)	307	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	MINI JCW Rally Team	+18:54:01

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