

Media Information
Dakar Rally 2018
11 January 2018

Dakar Rally 2018 – Stage 5: San Juan de Marcona – Arequipa

- Two MINI crews complete Stage 5 inside top ten.
- Terranova overcomes deep sand and high dunes to take 6th in stage.
- Przygonski completes Stage 5 in 10th and moves to eighth overall.

Munich. Once again the desert sands caused problems for nearly all competitors in all categories. Right from the outset the leading group of cars hit trouble in the deep sand and dunes of the Tanaca region. However, despite the conditions, all five-crews of the MINI Family completed Stage 5, two inside the top ten.

Highest placed MINI crew at the end of Stage 5 was Orlando Terranova (ARG) and co-driver Bernardo Graue (ARG) who finished in 6th position after starting from 20th. This result means the Argentine duo and their MINI John Cooper Works Rally are now placed just outside of the overall top ten classification in 12th place.

Jakub ‘Kuba’ Przygonski (POL) and Tom Colsoul (BEL) were once again in the thick of the action. As the dust settled after crossing the Stage 5 finish point, the MINI John Cooper Works Rally crew were classed 10th in stage and have now moved up to eighth on the overall Dakar leader board.

Przygonski: “We got stuck inside the first section. It was very difficult to get out and spent more than 30 minutes to get free. The other sections were much better...”

Boris Garafulic (CHI) and co-driver Filipe Palmeiro (POR) were also victims of deep sand and they too got stuck, but eventually broke free to complete the stage in 12th. They are now 28th overall.

Mikko Hirvonen (FIN) and Andreas Schulz (DEU) did not have any good luck in Stage 5. Hirvonen hurt his neck after a severe drop from the top of a dune, which forced him to drive with caution. The effect of driving at a reduced pace meant getting stuck several times.

Hirvonen: “What can I say? I had to come out of the dunes in first gear and by doing this we got stuck two or three times. It was disastrous.”

Fellow MINI John Cooper Works Buggy crew Yazeed Al Rajhi (KSA) / Timo Gottschalk (DEU) started at an incredible pace to complete the first section of Stage 5 as leaders. But later, near to the end of the stage, Al Rajhi opted to take a track on the shoreline of the Pacific Ocean and was hit by a freak wave that forced their MINI into the water. Fortunately, the crew of Garafulic / Palmeiro towed them back onto the beach. More MINI Family assistance came with Hirvonen / Schulz then towing them to the end of the special stage.

Stage 7, Arequipa – La Paz, takes the competitors out of Peru and into Bolivia via 447 kilometres of liaison and 313km of special stage. For more information about Dakar 2018, please visit the host's event home page [here](#).

Dakar Rally 2018: MINI standings after Stage 5

Pos	Driver	Co-driver	#	MINI	Team	Time
8	Jakub Przygonski (POL)	Tom Colsooul (BEL)	312	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	Orlen Team	015:44:09 +02:16:43
12	Orlando Terranova (ARG)	Bernardo Graue (Arg)	307	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	X-raid Team	017:31:07 +04:03:41
15	Mikko Hirvonen (FIN)	Andreas Schulz (DEU)	305	MINI John Cooper Works Buggy	X-raid Team	018:16:22 +04:48:56
28	Boris Garafulic (CHI)	Filipe Palmeiro (POR)	317	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	X-raid Team	023:29:15 +10:01:49
29	Yazeed Al Rajhi (KSA)	Timo Gottschalk (DEU)	314	MINI John Cooper Works Buggy	X-raid Team	023:41:03 +10:13:37

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