

Press release

06 January 2016

2016 Dakar Rally – Day Five, Stage 4: MINI ALL4 Racing now in top three. A determined but consistent race reaps Al-Attiyah and Baumel third place overall.

Nine MINI ALL4 Racing take up residency in the top 20, of which five make up the top 15. Terranova and Roma fight back to reclaim positions.

Munich. Day Five (Stage 4) ended on a high for reigning Dakar champions Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT) and co-pilot Mathieu Baumel (FRA) when they took their AXION X-raid Team MINI ALL4 racing (#300) to fourth place at the finish point. Today's result now puts this remarkable duo in third position overall and within striking distance of leader Sebastien Loeb.

To say the pair had a consistent but fast race on the first high altitude stage is an understatement – staying within the top five group at every waypoint along the 429km Special Stage. Al-Attiyah will now look to reducing the 11:09m time variation on Stage 5, the second part of the first Marathon stage.

“I was pushing from the beginning,” said Al-Attiyah. “We were really fast in CP1, but after that we lost a lot of time in a straight line because of the bumps. We are going strong but we never know what is coming tomorrow... and there are still more days to come!”

Mikko Hirvonen (FIN) and co-driver Michel Périn (FRA) in the #315 MINI ALL4 Racing didn't fare as well as they have done in the previous three stages. They completed Stage 4 in 12th. The knock-on effect of this is a slip of three places to seventh overall and a good place to be given that this is Hirvonen's first attempt at the infamous Dakar Rally.

Hirvonen: “Nothing special happened ~~today~~, today: in fact it was quite a boring stage in a way. 200k absolutely flat out in sixth gear... so I wasn't enjoying it. When it's fast like that over the bumps I lose a little time. In the end of that stage we had an absolutely straight 70km section. I hope it's more technical tomorrow.”

With Stage 4 being the first full distance leg of racing at this year's Dakar Rally – the first day without any major weather-related problems – all of the competitors had the opportunity to stretch their legs and cars. Possibly none more so than the AXION X-raid Team crews of Argentinean pairing Orlando Terranova / Bernardo 'Ronnie' Graue (#310) and Spanish duo Joan 'Nani' Roma / Alex Haro (#304).

With a fantastic display of cross-country rally driving using all their time-served skills, Terranova and Roma pushed their MINI ALL4 Racing hard. Terranova claimed

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another eight positions from yesterday, moving from 23rd to 15th overall. Roma nearly mirrored this achievement by jumping from 30th to 23rd.

“The start was difficult because we made a mistake at 3km and lost one minute,” said Terranova. “We lost some more minutes because it was risky to overtake. Also my body was worse than last year. Maybe there was less oxygen in this area and it made it difficult.”

Currently six MINI ALL4 Racing privateers have taken command of positions 10-20. The highest placed crew is that of Dutch pairing Erik van Loon and Wouter Rosegaar (Van Loon Racing #306). Their considerable Dakar experience will surely be tested to the full over the coming days by the remainder of the MINI ALL4 Racing family, all of which are currently breathing down the Dutch duo’s necks...

2016 Dakar Rally: Day Five, Stage 4, San Salvador de Jujuy - San Salvador de Jujuy, 429km. MINI ALL 4 Racing standings:

Position	Driver	Co-driver	#	Team	Time
3	Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT)	Mathieu Baumel (FRA)	300	AXION X-raid Team	009:56:00 +00:11:09
7	Mikko Hirvonen (FIN)	Michel Périn (FRA)	315	AXION X-raid Team	010:00:33 + 00:15:42
13	Erik van Loon (NDL)	Wouter Rosegaar (NDL)	306	Van Loon Racing	010:24:50 +00:39:59
14	Jakub ‘Kuba’ Przygonski (POL)	Andrei Rudnitski (BLR)	327	ORLEN Team	010:26:53 +00:42:02
15	Orlando Terranova (ARG)	Bernardo “Ronnie” Graue (ARG)	310	AXION X-raid Team	010:28:07 +00:43:16
17	Harry Hunt (GB)	Andreas Schulz (GER)	323	X-raid Team	010:31:39 +00:46:48
18	Adam Malysz (POL)	Xavier Panseri (FRA)	325	ORLEN Team	0010:32:58 +00:48:07
19	Boris Garafulic (CHL)	Filipe Palmeiro (POR)	313	X-raid Team	010:35:54 +00:51:03
20	Nazareno Lopez (ARG)	Sergio Lafuente (URU)	351	X-raid Team	010:39:12 +00:54:21
23	Joan ‘Nani’ Roma (ESP)	Alex Haro (ESP)	304	AXION X-raid Team	010:45:57 +01:01:56

MINI MOTORSPORT COMMUNICATIONS



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Find more photos and videos in high resolution of previous Dakar participants in the MINI ALL4 Racing on the BMW Media Website by [clicking here](#)

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