

PRESSRELEASE

Erik van Loon switches to the MINI ALL4 Racing

- Four events planned as Dakar preparation
- The goal: a top-10 result

Dutchman Erik van Loon is going to contest the 2014 season for Team X-raid at the wheel of a MINI ALL4 Racing. To prepare for the 2015 Dakar in the best possible way and perfectly familiarise with his new vehicle, the Dutchman and his co-driver, Wouter Rosegaar, want to contest four rallies, this year. The pairing's calendar comprises the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge (04th to 10th April, 2014), the Pharaons Rally (18th to 25th May, 2014), the Baja Spain (18th to 20th July, 2014) and the Morocco Rally (03rd to 09th October, 2014).

Van Loon – winner of the 2010 Dutch Rally Championship – made his first Dakar appearance in 2009 and contested every edition of the legendary event, since then. He secured his best result to date in 2011 by finishing 11th. In the 2014 Dakar, he came 27th.

“We are delighted with Erik van Loon’s decision to switch to the MINI ALL4 Racing.” said X-raid Team Principal Sven Quandt on the occasion of the announcement. “The fact that he plans to contest four rallies with us in the run-up to the 2015 Dakar represents a big advantage. So, he will cover a lot of racing kilometres at the wheel of the MINI ALL4 Racing and will be perfectly prepared when travelling to South America for the Dakar Rally.”

“In the 2014 Dakar, we constantly were driving in the top ten and demonstrated our potential,” replied van Loon. “Unfortunately, our car wasn’t reliable, so we dropped back and weren’t able to finish in the top 10. Our driving and navigating, however, was fine. So I looked for a fast and reliable car and the MINI demonstrated its reliability and speed, in the past years. I got in touch with Sven Quandt and we came to an agreement. I am very happy about this opportunity to prove that we have got what it takes to secure a top-10 result, in the Dakar.”

More photos available at press.x-raid.de

www.x-raid.de

MAGNA STEYR

