



Peterhansel gives the Monster Energy X-raid Team its seventh stage win

- Fourth stage win for the Frenchman in the 2014 Dakar
- Nine of the top-12 positions in the overall rankings held by MINI ALL4 Racing

The French pairing Stéphane Peterhansel / Jean-Paul Cottret in the black MINI ALL4 Racing proved to be the quickest in the 350-kilometre special stage from El Salvador to La Serena. With this success, Peterhansel passed Nani Roma (ESP) in the overall standings and holds the first position, now. The second fastest time was set by Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT) / Lucas Cruz (ESP) in the white MINI ALL4 Racing. Roma and his French co-driver Michel Périn took their yellow MINI ALL4 Racing to third place, with Krzysztof Holowczyc (POL) and Konstantin Zhiltsov (RUS) in the red MINI ALL4 Racing finishing fifth. While Orlando Terranova (ARG) / Paulo Fiúza (POR) came ninth, with their orange MINI ALL4 Racing.

Peterhansel was the fourth to start into today's stage and completed the 350-kilometre distance without encountering any problems. When Roma suffered a puncture, the Frenchman used the opportunity to pass him. "At this point in time, Nasser already had passed us but then I saw him opting for the wrong direction," Peterhansel revealed in the bivouac. In the end, he crossed the finish line with a lead of more than three minutes over his team-mate from Qatar who had held the lead nearly throughout the special stage. In the dune field in the closing stages of the session, however, Nasser followed the wrong compass direction, thus losing several minutes. In the overall standings, he holds the secure third position.

Roma started into the stage behind Terranova who displayed a very good pace in the opening stage despite being the first to start into the session and had to act as pathfinder. Then, however, the Argentinean lost a lot of time while looking for a waypoint – and Roma passed him. From this point in time, the Catalan was the pathfinder. "Unfortunately, we then had a puncture and Stéphane was able to pass us," said Roma. Afterwards, he stayed behind his team-mate to not take any unnecessary risks in the dunes.

By finishing fifth, Krzysztof Holowczyc once again delivered in solid style. But he also suffered a puncture and lost valuable time. His team-mate Terranova also had to cope with a dose of bad luck. He did not only lose time while looking for a way point but "We also got stuck once and suffered two punctures," said the Argentinean. "This was just a bad day."

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Team Manger Sven Quandt: “As we explained yesterday, our orders for the drivers were made to make sure that they and their MINI ALL4 Racing safely make it to the finish. Particularly Nasser and Stéphane raced at the very limit for several days and we had to intervene before something went wrong. Today, Nani suffered a puncture and Stéphane was able to pass him. By doing so, he didn’t act against our orders.”

Tomorrow will feature the final stage and the presentation ceremony on the podium. But at first, the drivers will have to contest a 122-kilometre liaison and a 157-kilometre special stage to the finish. From there, they will have to cover another 256 kilometres to the first night podium in the history of the Dakar in Valparaiso.

Results stage 12 (El Salvador - La Serena):

- 1st S. Peterhansel (FRA) / J.-P. Cottret (FRA) MINI ALL4 Racing – 3h 38m 19s
- 2nd N. Al-Attiyah (QAT) / L. Cruz (ESP) MINI ALL4 Racing – 3h 41m 57s
- 3rd N. Roma (ESP) / M. Périn (FRA) MINI ALL4 Racing – 3h 44m 17s
- 4th G. de Villiers (ZAF) / D. von Zitzewitz (GER) Toyota – 3h 49m 07s
- 5th K. Holowczyc (POL) / K. Zhiltsov (RUS) MINI ALL4 Racing – 3h 56m 25s
- ...
- 7th B. Garafulic (CHI) / G. Picard (FRA) MINI ALL4 Racing – 4h 03m 45s
- ...
- 9th O. Terranova (ARG) / P. Fiúza (POR) MINI ALL4 Racing – 4h 08m 09s
- ...
- 11th F. Villagra (ARG) / J. P. Companc (ARG) MINI ALL4 Racing – 4h 09m 45s
- 12th V. Vasilyev (RUS) / V. Yevtyekhov (UKR) MINI ALL4 Racing – 4h 09m 53s
- ...
- 15th Zhou Yong (CHN) / Hong Yu Pan (CHN) MINI ALL4 Racing – 4h 19m 23s
- ...
- 18th M. Kaczmarek (POL) / F. Palmeiro (POR) MINI ALL4 Racing – 4h 21m 38s
- ...
- 22nd Schott (GER) / H. Schmidt (GER) MINI ALL4 Racing – 4h 45m 12s

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Overall standings after Stage 12:

1st S. Peterhansel (FRA) / J.-P. Cottret (FRA) MINI ALL4 Racing – 48h 45m 45s

2nd N. Roma (ESP) / M. Périn (FRA) MINI ALL4 Racing – 48h 46m 11s

3rd N. Al-Attiyah (QAT) / L. Cruz (ESP) MINI ALL4 Racing – 49h 39m 52s

4th G. de Villiers (ZAF) / D. von Zitzewitz (GER) Toyota – 50h 06m 58s

5th O. Terranova (ARG) / P. Fiúza (POR) MINI ALL4 Racing – 50h 13m 42s

6th K. Holowczyc (POL) / K. Zhiltsov (RUS) MINI ALL4 Racing – 48h 46m 45s

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9th M. Kaczmarski (POL) / F. Palmeiro (POR) MINI ALL4 Racing – 55h 41m 18s

10th V. Vasilyev (RUS) / V. Yevtyekhov (UKR) MINI ALL4 Racing – 55h 46m 44s

11th B. Garafulic (CHI) / G. Picard (FRA) MINI ALL4 Racing – 56h 16m 07s

12th F. Villagra (ARG) / J. P. Companc (ARG) MINI ALL4 Racing – 57h 05m 34s

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17th S. Schott (GER) / H. Schmidt (GER) MINI ALL4 Racing – 61h 57m 31s

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25th Zhou Yong (CHN) / Hong Yu Pan (CHN) MINI ALL4 Racing – 71h 37m 50s

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