

PRESSRELEASE

After a short break, the Mini ALL4 Racing vehicles are back in action

- Four MINI ALL4 Racing racers to contest Qatar's Sealine Rally
- Vasilyev and Rakhimbayev will be joined by Holowczyc and Al Attiyah

Team X-raid and the Monster Energy X-raid Team currently have got virtually no time for a breather. Just a week after the major success in the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge – with four MINI ALL4 Racing vehicles in the top 10 – the teams now are going to contest the Sealine Cross Country Rally in Qatar. The Trebur based squad once again is going to enter four of its MINI ALL4 Racing rally vehicles. After a short break, the Russian Desert Challenge winners Vladimir Vasilyev and Konstantin Zhiltsov as well as the 10th-placed pairing, Kazakhstan's Aidyn Rakhimbayev and his Russian co-driver Co-Pilot Anton Nicolaev, will once again go for it. Qatar's MINI ALL4 Racing driver Nasser Al Attiyah is going to contest his home event together with Mattieu Baumel (FRA) in the navigator seat and the fourth vehicle will be raced by Poland's Krzysztof Holowczyc and his German co-driver Andreas Schulz.

The Sealine Rally in Qatar also represents the next FIA Cross Country Rally World Cup round. With his win accompanied by the early retirement of Yazeed Al Rahji, Vasilyev leaped to the very top of the World Cup rankings. Currently he is tied for points with Al Rahji and consequently shares the lead with him. In the forthcoming five-day event, Vasilyev wants to up the ante and open a lead over his championship rival. By winning the penultimate stage in Abu Dhabi, Rakhimbayev demonstrated that he also has got what it takes to become a factor in the battle for the top positions. Without his bad luck on day one when he was hit by an opponent, the Kazakh certainly could have secured a top-five result, in the Abu Dhabi.

In an off-road rally in Qatar, Al Attiyah just has to be involved. The 2014 Dakar was the first event he contested at the wheel of the MINI ALL4 racing and he finished third, right away. Having contested several rounds of the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East and the Middle East Rally Championship, this week's event will be the first off-road rally he is going to contest since the Dakar. And the same applies to Holowczyc who crossed the Dakar finish line in Valparaiso in fifth position, this January.

Over the course of the five days, the competitors will cover nearly 2,000 kilometres, with the special-stage distance amounting to 1,740 kilometres. The first special stage

www.x-raid.de

MAGNA STEYR



with a distance of some 160 kilometres will be the shortest. On the following four days, the teams will have to cover an average mileage of about 400 kilometres. Crews and vehicles will have to cope with the most different terrains, in Qatar: the event features sand and dunes on the one hand as well as fast and rocky tracks on the other.

“It definitely will be an interesting event with several potential winners,” said Team Manager Sven Quandt. “Nasser definitely will try to win his home event and at the same time, Vladimir and Yazeed are fighting for becoming the sole FIA World Cup leader. And Krzysztof also has got what it takes to make it to the very top. For me, it would be of major importance to witness us repeating the sensational team result we achieved in the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge.”

More photos available at press.x-raid.de