

Objective completed for PETRONAS Team De Rooy IVECO in Dakar Rally's debut in Middle East

After more than 7.800 kilometers, the four IVECO trucks made it to the end with a sixth position overall for Janus van Kasteren in a very tough race that required the best equipment to reach the finish line

Qiddiyah, January 18th 2020

Twelve days of competition, five thousand timed kilometers of racing and more than fifty hours on full throttle onboard the trucks. That is a big picture of the last two weeks for the crews of PETRONAS Team De Rooy IVECO, that could not count with Gerard de Rooy in the line-up due to a back injury. Nevertheless, the Dutchman stayed in Saudi Arabia for the length of the rally to guide the crews and was satisfied with the job done.

"The performance of the team was good. The only thing that changed from the previous years is that the drivers have a little less experience, but all of them were able to solve difficulties in the right way. The idea is not to make any changes, but to train and polish some details", stated team manager Gerard de Rooy.

Two-time winner of Dakar Rally highlighted the good performance from Janus van Kasteren, who gave the PETRONAS Team De Rooy IVECO its best position with a sixth place. The Dutchman managed a stage podium in the early part of the competition and was able to get into the Top 10 in half of the specials. With consistence, Van Kasteren guided his #505 Powerstar to the edge of the Top 5 overall.

Together with Van Kasteren, #522 Powerstar of Vick Versteijnen was the chosen one to fight ahead and assist his teammate in case of trouble. But the complications appeared for Versteijnen in Stage 4, when a mechanical issue prevented him from starting and forced him to retire. He could still continue in the race in "Dakar Experience" mode, but his times only counted for stages and not for the overall classification. He got into the Top 10 in Stages 5 and 7, as he switched his objective to help Van Kasteren with the assistance.

New for the PETRONAS Team De Rooy IVECO in this Dakar 2020 were Albert Llovera and Michiel Becx, with direct assistance for his teammates. Llovera competed with an adapted cockpit because of his ski accident years ago and performed in a great way, rounding ten from twelve stages among the best 20 trucks of the race. The Andorran scored his best result in his Dakar career with a 15th overall. On his side, Becx was just behind Llovera in 16th position, completing the results for the PETRONAS Team De Rooy IVECO in Saudi Arabia.

With the mind already set in Dakar 2021 that will be run in Middle East, PETRONAS Team De Rooy IVECO starts its preparation, with evaluations of the team's performance and results, combined with the experience of the terrain known in these two weeks of competition in Saudi Arabia.

OVERALL STANDINGS

1. Andrey Karginov (Kamaz)	46h33m36s
2. Anton Shibalov (Kamaz)	+ 42m26s
3. Siarhei Viazovich (Maz)	+ 2h04m42s
4. Dmitry Sotnikov (Kamaz)	+ 2h55m28s
5. Martin Macik (IVECO)	+ 3h28m08s

6. JANUS VAN KASTEREN (IVECO)	+ 4h26m57s
15. ALBERT LLOVERA (IVECO)	+ 12h41m06s
16. MICHIEL BECX (IVECO)	+ 14h39m57s
--- VICK VERSTEIJNEN (IVECO)	

IVECO

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