



SERVICE FLASH

Date: 22 May 2009

Day: 1

Service: "A"

Flash N°: 1 S

INTERVIEWS AT THE FIRST REGROUP ON FRIDAY

LOEB – The surface is very slippery, with a lot of rocks and sand on the surface. It was not bad globally, I am second 14" behind Latvala, and the second run in the afternoon will be better. The feeling with the car is ok, starting first did not help, I am trying to attack without taking risks. In the afternoon the stages will be cleaner but it will also be hotter.

HIRVONEN – I feel better than yesterday, but I am still not at 100%. I thought that Loeb would lose something to me, instead he is in front, Jari-Matti also went very well. The stages are always slippery, the car is ok but not perfect, we are still at the beginning, we will see this afternoon.

SORDO – A start of day full of problems, first the turbo was not working and caused me to be late at the start of the first stage. Then in stage 3 I hit a rock and I broke the front right camper. A shame because I had won stage 2, and the car was going well.

LATVALA – The start of the day was fine, we did some good times, but the car's set-up is not perfect. Upon braking the front of the car locks and so the engine loses revs. Starting behind is an advantage in some points, not in others.

HENNING SOLBERG – All ok, no problem.

PETTER SOLBERG – I am fourth and happy, it is a good result. Let us see what will happen in the afternoon with this great heat.

WILSON – In the first stage I had hydraulic problems, I was without active diffs, the car was very difficult to drive.

OGIER – Good start, nice times, great feeling with the car, let us continue like this.

NOVIKOV – As I expected the stages are very slippery, the second pass will be easier when the roads are cleaner.

VILLAGRA – I had problems with launch control in the three starti, and after the first stage I changed the suspension set-up.

OSTBERG – All ok, only some suspension problem which we have solved.



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AL QASSIMI – I had problems with the brakes in all the three stages.

ZANCHI – Everything fine, I had not been on gravel since 2006. I spun on stage 2 but did not lose much, I am happy with my stage times, I can only improve in the afternoon. Very nice Rally, long and interesting stages, we drivers like it a lot.

PROKOP – Arrives late at the TC.

BETTEGA – I am not happy, not satisfied with the new set-up, the car won't stay on the road. I must change springs, I am not satisfied with the new ones, and will return to the old ones.

AL-ATTIYAH – Very well on the first stage, I did not take any risks because the rear of the car moves a bit.