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48 CREWS ARE ENTERED IN THE 2010 RALLYD'ITALIA SARDEGNA

The race will start from Cagliari at 20.00 on Friday, June 4th

Olbia, May 31st, 2010 - Sebastien Ogier, who last weekend won Rally of Portugal, a round of the World Rally Championship, will certainly be the star of the 2010 edition of Rally d'Italia Sardegna y Sardinia. The event organized by the Automobile Club d'Italia this year is valid for the Intercontinental Rally Challenge and for the Gravel Rally Trophy. The Frenchman will start the race in Sardinia with a Peugeot 207 Super 2000. **"This will be my first time on gravel with the Peugeot 207 S2000- said Ogier - and I come to Sardinia to gather experience. My morale is very high after the victory in Portugal, but I will race with humility against strong and motivated opponents. "** Just to confirm the beauty and technical quality of the protagonists of the IRC, it must be said that Ogier has many opponents in the race, even capable of beating him. Among these, above all, the series' leader Juho Hanninen who will use his Skoda Fabia Super 2000. **"The Rally of Sardinia - said the Finn – is one of my favourite races, and I must absolutely to win since the championship will then continues with some races on asphalt which are not my favourite. It will not be easy to achieve this because there are so many good opponents, particularly Ogier who is very fast and has no concerns for the championship".**

There are many other drivers aiming for success in the fifth round of the series. Essentially two teams that are competing to win both the single events and the international series. On the one hand, Skoda which arrives in Sardinia with a very strong team revived by the recent successes. In addition to Hanninen, the Bohemian manufacturer has also entered Czech Jan Kopecky, and Welshman Guy Wilks. Also on a Skoda Fabia is the driver from Milan Pierlorenzo Zanchi. More numerous and, theoretically, fiercer the Peugeot squad. Besides the previously mentioned Ogier there will be, among others, Scot Kris Meeke, winner of the IRC in 2009, the Italian champion Paolo Andreucci, Portuguese Bruno Magalhaes, Belgian Thierry Neuville. Paolo Andreucci does not hide his plans.

"I have now been driving the Peugeot 207 Super 2000 for some time - said the Tuscan driver - and I have a good feeling with the car. have always liked the Sardinian stages and despite the fierce competition I will decisely aim to win".

Among the drivers to be taken into account for the higher parts of the results table is young Norwegian Andreas Mikkelsen, with a works M-Sport Ford Fiesta S2000. Also worth mentioning is the presence in Sardinia of the two times Junior Champion PG Andersson. The 30 year-old Swedish driver will be at his debut race on the Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X by the British JRM Team.

"It is my debut on the Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X - Andersson said - but the Super 2000 are now much faster than the Group N cars, as we saw in Portugal. Among other things, Group N cars weigh about 200 kg more than the S2000, I will race in Sardinia to gain experience, this is also a good opportunity to get some training on gravel".

Among the leading protagonists of the race there will also be the best drivers of the Gravel Rally Trophy, the national series for the specialists of white roads, at its fourth round. This rally's result will have coefficient 2 for this series. That is why the event will see Teemu Arminen, current championship leader with his Subaru Impreza N14, Mauro Trentin, second in his Peugeot 207 Super 2000, Dedo, also on Peugeot and third in the series, and Alex Bruschetta, currently fourth in his Subaru Impreza.

Finally, there are seven local crews entered in the 2010 Rally d'Italia Sardegna. Among them stands out Claudio Addis, who will be driving a Super 2000, the PA Racing Peugeot 207 S2000. There will also be three experienced drivers such as Francesco Marrone, who will be together with Sebastiano Colla on a Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX, and Giuseppe Dettori and Paolo Liceri, both using Mitsubishi Lancers Evo IX by Pro Race. Both Dettori and Marrone have won, in the previous years, the special classification for local drivers in Rally d'Italia-Sardegna. Also entered are "Piano"-Cottu on a Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX, Valdarchi- Innocenti (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo VIII), and Davide Catania on a Subaru Impreza N14. Also entered is Gavino Carta, a Tuscan driver of Sardinian origin on a Subaru Impreza N14.