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THE RALLY D'ITALIA SARDEGNA STARTS TOMORROW

The shakedown will be held in the morning close to Olbia.

The ceremonial start in the evening in Cagliari.

Olbia, June 3rd 2010 – Just a few hours to go before the start of the 2010 Rally d'Italia Sardegna 2010, organised by the Automobile Club d'Italia and valid as the fifth round of the Intercontinental Rally Challenge and as fourth round of the Gravel Rally Trophy. The engines will start tomorrow morning for the shakedown, scheduled from 08.00 to 12.00 in Monte Pinu, close to Olbia. In the evening, the ceremonial start will be held in Cagliari, Calata Roma, at 20.00.

The odds are equally split between the drivers of the two manufacturers who have done well in the first rounds of the international series, Skoda and Peugeot, without forgetting Ford, with a works car by M-Sport.

On one side Finnish Juho Hanninen, current leader of the IRC series, Czech Jan Kopecky, and English Guy Wilks, all three on a Skoda Fabia. On the other French Sébastien Ogier, Irishman Kris Meeke, the IRC defending champion, the Italian Champion Paolo Andreucci, Portuguese Bruno Magalhaes, and Belgian Thierry Neuville, all on Peugeot 207 Super 2000. In the middle, as an outsider, Norwegian Andreas Mikkelsen with the Ford Fiesta Super 2000. Other awaited drivers are Turkish Burku Cetinkaya, Peugeot 207 Super 2000, Per Gunnar Andersson, Mitsubishi, and Finnish Teemu Arminen, Subaru, current leader of the Gravel Rally Trophy. This event will count for the prestigious national series with double coefficient. Arminen's main opponents are Mauro Trentin, Peugeot 207 Super 2000, "Dedo", Peugeot 207 Super 2000 and Alex Bruschetta, Subaru.

This year the event embraces all the Island with its route, but the heart of the Rally is, as usual, Olbia. The beautiful town of Gallura hosts the main service area, at Molo Brin, the HQ and the press room, located in the Archaeological Museum of Isolotto Peddone. A town, Olbia, and a land which have always supported the event understanding its importance in the promotion of local tourism. An active help especially by the Municipality and the Tourism and Sports departments.

The event will start tomorrow at 20.00 from Cagliari. Before the start, the pupils of some local schools will be able to approach the drivers and their cars and collect signatures. The same will happen on Saturday from 13.00 to 15.00 at the service area

For any further information please visit www.rallyitaliasardegna.com