

# Rally d'Italia Sardegna

Press Office



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### New tests for Ford

This past week end the Ford test team did some more tests in Sardinia, under the supervision of the engineer Carl Goodman. Roman Kresta tested for two days at Tergu the BF Goodrich Tyres in order to prepare for Rally Acropolis, then on the gravel roads of Gallura in the North part of Sardinia, Markus Gronholm and Mikko Hirvonen set up the Focus WRC 2006 for the coming Rally d'Italia Sardegna.

"We worked on the adjustment of suspensions, shock absorbers, differentials and we tested the tyres. – said Mikko Hirvonen at the end of the testing he did at La Prugnola and Monte Moro – We found the basic set up of the car for Rally d'Italia Sardegna. We adapted the car to the Sardinian dirt roads, choosing roads as similar as possible to the ones we are going to find during the race. I did well here last year, I was third at the end of leg one. The car is fine on gravel and I hope I'll do well this year too".

Also Markus Gronholm is satisfied with the tests he carried out with the Focus at Aggius and Canu. "The car is fine – said the Finnish driver – and in these days we made a few changes in the mapping of the engine and in the suspensions regulation. I hope I'll have at last a race without problems".

**Question:** With what kind of spirit you are facing this race?

**Answer:** "I feel well and since I didn't get points in Argentina I feel obliged to win here in Sardegna. I have to win, It's unbelievable that Loeb has no problems and things have been turning bad for us in the last four races".

**Q.:** Did you plan any tactics?

**A.:** "Just one, attack from the beginning, from the very first kilometre as everyone does always. It's going to be essential that the car would not have problems, I do not make mistakes, like last year at Mamone and be quick in the narrow stages. All this could be not enough if Loeb's car keep going that well, his car goes incredibly well".

**Q.:** The "Sisu", the strong spirit of the Finnish people, could help you in achieving the good results you expect in the WRC?

**A.:** "The "Sisu" will be with me all the time, but we have to do our best with the Ford team in order to fight against Loeb and Citroen. It could be the right year for Ford and myself. I count also on Mikko Hirvonen help. We can do it".

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