

## Hayden Paddon takes Rally Argentina victory after stunning Power Stage win

- Hyundai Motorsport has secured the first win for its New Generation i20 WRC after a dominant Power Stage for Hayden Paddon and John Kennard
- Dani Sordo took second in the Power Stage to claim two extra points and take fourth overall, equalling his best result of the season so far
- Thierry Neuville claimed a top-six finish to allow Hyundai Motorsport to increase Hyundai Motorsport's Manufacturer Championship points total to 81

April 25, 2016 – Hyundai Motorsport has taken its second ever victory in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) on a thrilling final day in Argentina, round four of the 2016 season.

Hayden Paddon and John Kennard, who have been among the quickest, produced a sensational Power Stage performance to eclipse hard-pushing Sébastien Ogier and claim outright victory by 14.3 seconds.

The result not only marks Hayden Paddon's debut WRC win, but also the maiden victory for Hyundai Motorsport's New Generation i20 WRC in only its fourth outing. It also continues the team's most competitive start to a WRC season in its short history adding a third podium and cementing Hyundai Motorsport's second place in the Manufacturers' Championship.

Hayden Paddon commented: "I can't believe it! I really didn't think we were going to be able to hang on. It all came down to the Power Stage and we pushed really hard. It was particularly special to pull out that performance on El Condor. We've worked a lot on that stage because I've not been particularly strong on the tight and twisty stages. We drove the wheels off the car. It's a lot to take in at the moment. It's a fantastic result for me, John and the whole team. A huge amount of work has gone into the New Generation i20 WRC. I knew from the first test that we could win with it. I just didn't quite expect it to be so soon."

This victory continues Hyundai Motorsport's impressive start to the 2016 WRC season after podiums in Monte-Carlo and Sweden, and fourth in Mexico. It is the team's first win since Rallye Deutschland in 2014 and this afternoon's Power Stage performance underlines the potential that the New Generation i20 WRC has on a level playing field against its rivals.

Team Principal Michel Nandan said: "This is a rally weekend that we will never forget! Hayden has put



in the performance of his career to take one of the most popular victories we've seen in WRC in recent times. His pace and commitment in the Power Stage was impressive; he and John both deserve this win. It's fantastic for all of us at Hyundai Motorsport. It is our second win in WRC but the first with our New Generation i20 WRC in only its fourth event. We've worked so hard on this car so to see the fruit of our work is very special. All our drivers and team members can share in this moment. While we will enjoy this moment, we know there is more to do so we will continue to push development of the New Generation i20 WRC. Portugal is next with a new set of demands and challenges."

The fifth round of the FIA World Rally Championship, Rally de Portugal, takes place 19-22 May as Hyundai Motorsport aims to continue the winning momentum with the New Generation i20 WRC.

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#### **About Hyundai Motorsport GmbH**

Established on 19 December 2012, Hyundai Motorsport GmbH is responsible for Hyundai's global motorsport activities and primarily for its World Rally Championship programme. Based in Alzenau on the outskirts of Frankfurt in Germany, the company embarked on its debut season in the FIA World Rally Championship in 2014 with a bespoke team of skilled staff and a brand new car, the Hyundai i20 WRC. The team made a strong impression in its first year claiming podium results in Mexico and Poland, as well as a memorable 1-2 in Germany. In its second season, the team was involved in a closely fought battle for second place in the Manufacturers' Championship, adding more podiums and stage wins to its tally. For its third season in WRC, Hyundai Motorsport has developed a brand new car, the New Generation i20 WRC, which made its rally debut with a podium finish in Rallye Monte-Carlo in January 2016.

Further information about Hyundai Motorsport is available at: <http://motorsport.hyundai.com>

#### **About Hyundai Motor Europe**

In 2015, Hyundai Motor achieved registrations of 470,130 vehicles in Europe – an increase of 10.9% compared to 2014 – and replaced 80% of its model line-up to create the youngest car range in Europe. 90% of the vehicles Hyundai sold in the region are models designed, engineered, tested and built in Europe to meet the needs of European customers, served by the company's extensive European infrastructure. This includes two factories in the Czech Republic and Turkey with a combined annual capacity of 500,000 units. Hyundai Motor sells cars in 31 European countries through 2,500 outlets.



Hyundai Motor offers its unique Five Year Unlimited Mileage Warranty package with all new cars sold in the region, providing customers with a five-year warranty with no mileage limit, five years of roadside assistance and five years of vehicle health checks.

More information about Hyundai Motor Europe and its products is available at [www.hyundai.news](http://www.hyundai.news).

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