

## Hyundai Motorsport celebrates double podium in Rally de Portugal

- Hyundai Motorsport secured a double podium finish with a 2-3 result in Rally de Portugal, the sixth round of the 2017 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)
- Thierry Neuville finished just 15.6s behind rally winner Sébastien Ogier in second place with Dani Sordo in third, taking the team's first ever Portuguese podium
- Hayden Paddon completed a frustrating weekend by claiming two stage wins on Sunday morning, with Hyundai Motorsport crews taking nine stage wins in total this weekend.

Matosinhos, Portugal

May 21, 2017 – Hyundai Motorsport has claimed its second double podium of the 2017 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) with Thierry Neuville and Dani Sordo completing Rally de Portugal in second and third positions respectively.

The result fulfils Hyundai Motorsport's pre-rally objectives in style, securing the team its first-ever Portuguese podium finish. It is the sixth time in the team's history where it has had two crews on the podium and continues its run of 2017 top-three finishes after third in Mexico, a 1-3 in Corsica and victory at the previous round in Argentina.

All three Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team crews registered stage wins this weekend with Hayden Paddon and Neuville notching up four apiece, with Sordo also taking one. It is the first rally this season where all crews have achieved the feat and represents one of the team's most successful rallies to date in terms of stage wins with nine in total.

Starting Sunday's final four stages, including two attempts at the legendary Fafe jump, Neuville and Sordo set about defending their positions. Paddon, on the other hand, having suffered technical issues on Friday and Saturday, went about showing his true credentials with some impressive times.

Neuville could do little to reduce the gap to eventual winner Sébastien Ogier, but finished the rally less than 16 seconds behind the reigning World Champion. The Belgian continued his unbroken run of Power Stage points finishes, taking second in the concluding Fafe stage to score a total of 22 points.

With today's result, Hyundai Motorsport maintains second in the Manufacturer's Championship on 173 points and keeps up the pressure on leaders M-Sport, who are 26 points ahead on 199. Neuville, meanwhile, moves up into second place in the Drivers' Championship, breaking through the 100-point barrier to 106 after six rounds of the season.

### Crew Notes: Neuville/Gilsoul (#5 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

After a closely fought but challenging opening day, Neuville and his co-driver Nicolas Gilsoul regained confidence on Saturday's itinerary to move into the podium battle. From there, the Corsica and Argentina victors enjoyed a clean run to second. It is their fourth podium in a row this season and second in the Power Stage continues their unchallenged streak of PS points this season.

Neuville said: *"We had a good, clean Power Stage to end our rally in a positive manner. We have*



*struggled a bit with the rear of the car this weekend, which has prevented us from challenging Ogier and M-Sport for the win more strongly. They delivered a great performance here, which we couldn't match. Still, after two wins I am pleased to finish second as well as taking another good haul of Power Stage points. That has been very important for my position in the Drivers' Championship, moving now into second place behind Ogier. Also, from a team point of view, with Dani in third, we have added more points to the team's standings, so it's been a valuable and successful weekend. Thanks to the team for their efforts, we can now look ahead to Sardinia, where we were victorious last season, in a very positive frame of mind."*

#### **Crew Notes: Sordo/Martí (#6 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)**

For Sordo and co-driver Marc Martí, third place in Portugal marks their first gravel podium for Hyundai Motorsport after previous success on tarmac and the mixed surface Spanish event. It's their sixth top-three in total with the team. Despite some struggles over the weekend, they were able to fend off challenges from some strong opposition to score third place.

*Sordo said: "I am really happy with this podium result. I was a bit disappointed on Saturday not to be able to fight closer to the front, but Sébastien and Thierry were just too fast. It left me a bit too far away to attack more on today's stages so I was just focused on finishing third and taking the podium. It was a fun and enjoyable weekend. The support of the spectators was incredible and it was fantastic to see so many people lining the stages. Big thanks to everyone who has cheered us on, and to everyone in the team for this great result."*

#### **Crew Notes: Paddon/Marshall (#4 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)**

Rally de Portugal has proven to be a question of 'what if' for Paddon and co-driver Seb Marshall. The Anglo-Kiwi partnership picked up four stage wins over the weekend and were vying for the lead of the rally on Friday before electricals issues hampered their progress. Further trouble with their steering rack on Saturday meant they started today determined to show their real pace, which they certainly did.

*Paddon commented: "First of all, I'd like to say big thanks to our team for their hard work. It's been a frustrating one at times but they have never given up. In fact, they only dig deeper with each rally so we are all aiming to conquer this challenge together. We wanted to use these final stages of the rally to show what we could accomplish, and the fact we could set more stage wins only reinforced what might have been without our troubles. The Power Stage was fun. As first on the road, we had to do a lot of cleaning, more than we expected, but I enjoyed it. Seb has done an amazing job in his first time in the car. We could've been fighting for the win here this weekend but there are some encouraging signs for the future."*

#### **Missing Accomplished**

Following two consecutive victories, Hyundai Motorsport recalibrated its targets for Portugal, where it had never previously scored a podium finish. With each season, the team has edged closer and closer so today's second and third positions continue that trend. The team now has 26 individual WRC podiums in its history, and has taken a top-three finish in 12 of the 13 rally events on the calendar.

Team Principal Michel Nandan commented: *"We have achieved our objectives this weekend with two of*

*our Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC cars on the podium. Congratulations to Thierry and Nicolas, Dani and Marc on a good job this weekend. When Sébastien Ogier starts the final day with a 16-second advantage, you know it is going to be an easy gap for him to manage. We set about securing our second and third places, which the crews did comfortably, while also putting on a nice show for the many thousands of fans out on the stages. Hayden and Seb showed great pace this morning, too, with two stages wins to add to their collection from this weekend. It's disappointing that we experienced two separate problems with their car over the weekend, which we need to investigate more deeply. We have lacked a bit of performance compared to our nearest rivals this weekend, but we can be satisfied to take our first Portuguese podiums. Sardinia will offer another challenge but we have happy memories from last season, which we will definitely want to repeat!"*

### **What's next?**

The seventh round of the 2017 FIA World Rally Championship will be held on the island of Sardinia, where Hyundai Motorsport was victorious twelve months ago.

Rally Italia Sardegna sees the Championship move into its second half with Hyundai Motorsport determined to register more wins and podiums with its Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC.

### **Final Overall Classification - Rally de Portugal**

1	S. Ogier	J. Ingrassia	Ford Fiesta WRC	3:42:55.7
2	<b>T. Neuville</b>	<b>N. Gilsoul</b>	<b>Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC</b>	<b>+15.6</b>
3	<b>D. Sordo</b>	<b>M. Martí</b>	<b>Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC</b>	<b>+1:01.7</b>
4	O. Tanak	M. Jarveoja	Ford Fiesta WRC	+1:30.2
5	C. Breen	S. Martin	Citroën C3 WRC	+1:57.4
6	E. Evans	D. Barritt	Ford Fiesta WRC	+3:10.6
7	J. Hänninen	K. Lindstrom	Toyota Yaris WRC	+3:48.9
8	M. Østberg	O. Floene	Ford Fiesta WRC	+5:29.7
9	J.M Latvala	M. Anttila	Toyota Yaris WRC	+5:43.6
10	E. Lappi	J. Ferm	Toyota Yaris WRC	+8:13.3

## 2017 FIA World Rally Championship for Drivers' Standings

After round 6

1	S. Ogier	128
<b>2</b>	<b>T. Neuville</b>	<b>106</b>
3	J.M Latvala	88
4	O. Tanak	83
<b>5</b>	<b>D. Sordo</b>	<b>66</b>
6	E. Evans	53
7	C. Breen	43
<b>8</b>	<b>H. Paddon</b>	<b>33</b>
9	K. Meeke	27
10	J. Hänninen	21

## 2017 FIA World Rally Championship for Manufacturers' Standings

After round 6

1	M-Sport World Rally Team	199
<b>2</b>	<b>Hyundai Motorsport</b>	<b>173</b>
3	Toyota Gazoo Racing WRT	113
4	Citroën Total Abu Dhabi World Rally Team	85

All results remain subject to official FIA confirmation.

-Ends-

### **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 year in WRC, Hyundai Motorsport developed a brand new car, the New Generation i20 WRC. The team enjoyed its most successful season to date in 2016 with two victories (Argentina and Sardinia) and a total of 12 individual podium results, finishing second in the Manufacturers' Championship. With a number of key technical regulation changes introduced for the 2017 season, Hyundai Motorsport has developed a brand new car, the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC, with which it contests its fourth season. The team has already scored two victories in 2017 in Corsica and Argentina.

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

### **About Hyundai Motor**

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Company is committed to becoming a lifetime partner in automobiles and beyond. The company leads the Hyundai Motor Group, an innovative business structure capable of circulating resources from molten iron to finished cars. Hyundai Motor has eight manufacturing bases and seven design & technical centres worldwide and in 2015 sold 4.96 million vehicles globally. With more than 110,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai Motor continues to enhance its product line-up with localised models and strives to strengthen its leadership in clean technology, starting with the world's first mass-produced hydrogen-powered vehicle, Tucson Fuel Cell and IONIQ, the world's first model with three electrified powertrains.

More information about Hyundai Motor and its products can be found at: <http://worldwide.hyundai.com> or <http://globalpr.hyundai.com/>

To download high-resolution photos for editorial use, full drivers' profiles, as well as other useful press information about the team please refer to:

<http://press.motorsport.hyundai.com/home>

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