

## Hyundai Motorsport concludes challenging weekend with Power Stage win

- Hyundai Motorsport has finished its home event, Rallye Deutschland, in a disappointing eighth place after a demanding weekend
- Dramas for all three crews prevented the team from mounting a stronger challenge despite showing glimpses of pace with six stage wins in total
- Dani Sordo took the maximum five points in the rally-concluding Power Stage, offering some consolation for the Spaniard ahead of his home rally.

Bostalsee, Germany

August 20, 2017 – Hyundai Motorsport heads into the six-week break with clear intentions to refocus on its championship campaign after a tough weekend in Rallye Deutschland, the tenth round of the 2017 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC).

Despite being a home rally for the Alzenau-based squad, and a happy hunting ground for results in the past three seasons, none of the team's three crews have had cause for celebration this weekend.

Hayden Paddon and Seb Marshall were the highest placed Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team pair, down in eighth place. Dani Sordo and Marc Martí were put out of contention early on Friday morning after rolling down a bank, and forced to start again under Rally 2 on Saturday.

Thierry Neuville and Nicolas Gilsoul also had to make use of Rally 2 to re-join on Sunday morning, after their rally was brought to a sudden halt on Saturday's opening stage. All in all, it was an unrepresentative weekend for Hyundai Motorsport overall, although it ended on a positive as Sordo claimed Power Stage victory and five extra points towards his drivers' championship total. That result saw Sordo take a total of five stage wins, equal with rally winner Ott Tänak.

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

Paddon and Marshall suffered two separate punctures over the weekend, which cost them time on Friday and Saturday. In their fifth event together, the crew continued to push and were rewarded with a handful of top-three times later in the rally, including second in Sunday's SS20 (Losheim am See).

*Paddon said: "When conditions were more consistent, we showed some improvement in performance compared to last year, so there are some positives to take away from this tough weekend. I knew this would be one of the hardest rallies of the season, so I am pleased that we made it to the end, and showing better stage times. I am going back home to NZ for a month, during which I will also take part in a few gravel rallies, so I am looking forward to that. Then, it's back to Europe when we will begin our push for a good result to finish the season."*

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

For Sordo and Martí, their hopes of a third podium of the season were ruined after an off on Friday morning. However, the Spaniards showed improved performance on Saturday, including three stage wins, and ending the rally with Power Stage victory on Sunday.



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Sabelt



Sordo said: *“This hasn’t been the rally we wanted at all so it was nice to end it with a win in the Power Stage. It shows what we might have been able to achieve without our problems this weekend. I am disappointed in myself for the mistake I made on Friday, which ended our hopes of a good result. I am sorry to the team for what happened, but we have tried to perform better in these past two days. Now, all I can do is look forward to my home event in Spain where I will be trying all I can to get back onto the podium – and plan to finish the season in the best way possible.”*

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

Having moved into the podium positions at the end of Friday, it was a stark turnaround in fortunes for Neuville and Gilsoul on Saturday. Forced to restart on Sunday morning under Rally 2, the Belgians struggled for pace and saw their run of Power Stage points broken as well.

Neuville said: *“We made too many small mistakes this morning and struggled with the handling of the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC. We didn’t have enough time in the car on Saturday to prepare ourselves in the best way for these final stages. It’s obviously a massive disappointment to come away with so little from a rally in which we were hoping to be at the front. The championship is not over. I will give everything to turn things around in the final three rounds of the season.”*

#### **Short trip home**

Hyundai Motorsport will return to its factory in Alzenau to reflect and learn from a difficult home rally weekend.

Team Principal Michel Nandan said: *“Not so much a weekend to forget, as a rally from which we must learn and bounce back. We thought we would be able to mount a stronger challenge in our home event, but for a number of different reasons we were just not able to do it. We know from other rallies this season that our Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC is competitive, so this result is hard to accept. As I said after our disappointing Saturday, it is not in our nature to give up without a fight, and that’s the mentality with which we will tackle the three remaining rallies. Dani’s victory in the Power Stage gives us a bit of lift as we head into the long break.”*

#### **Next Rally**

The WRC takes a six-week break before returning for Rally de España, which takes place from 5-8 October. It will act as the 11<sup>th</sup> round of the 13-event 2017 season.

The Spanish round of the championship is the only mixed surface rally of the season, tackling gravel and tarmac terrain.

## Final Overall Classification - Rallye Deutschland

1	O. Tänak	M. Järveoja	Ford Fiesta WRC	2:57:31.7
2	A. Mikkelsen	A. Jaeger	Citroën C3 WRC	+16.4
3	S. Ogier	J. Ingrassia	Ford Fiesta WRC	+30.4
4	J. Hänninen	K. Lindström	Toyota Yaris WRC	+1:49.2
5	C. Breen	S. Martin	Citroën C3 WRC	+2:01.5
6	E. Evans	D. Barritt	Ford Fiesta WRC	+2:03.4
7	J.M. Latvala	M. Anttila	Toyota Yaris WRC	+3:58.2
8	<b>H. Paddon</b>	<b>S. Marshall</b>	<b>Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC</b>	<b>+4:32.4</b>

## 2017 FIA World Rally Championship for Drivers' Standings

After round 10

1	S. Ogier	177
2	<b>T. Neuville</b>	<b>160</b>
3	O. Tanak	144
4	J.M Latvala	123
5	<b>D. Sordo</b>	<b>89</b>
6	E. Evans	87
7	C. Breen	64
8	J. Hänninen	58
9	<b>H. Paddon</b>	<b>55</b>
10	E. Lappi	49

## 2017 FIA World Rally Championship for Manufacturers' Standings

After round 10

1	M-Sport World Rally Team	325
2	<b>Hyundai Motorsport</b>	<b>261</b>
3	Toyota Gazoo Racing World Rally Team	213
4	Citroën Total Abu Dhabi World Rally Team	163

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 developed a brand new car, the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC, with which it is contesting its fourth season. The team registered its first win of 2017 at Tour de Corse before following that up with victories in Rally Argentina and Poland.

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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