

Rally México – Day Three Report

- Hyundai Motorsport has taken its best-ever result in Rally México as Dani Sordo claimed second place, the team's third individual podium result of the 2018 season
- The team has achieved its pre-event objective of extending its lead in the FIA World Rally Championship manufacturers' standings as Andreas Mikkelsen finished fourth
- Thierry Neuville completed a tough rally in sixth overall, having started each day as first on the road. Both he and Mikkelsen scored Power Stage points.

León, Mexico

March 11, 2018 – Hyundai Motorsport has secured its most competitive finish on the gruelling gravel stages of Rally México, as Dani Sordo picked up his first podium of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) with a strong run to second.

The Spaniard, along with co-driver Carlos del Barrio, has been on impressive form all weekend, registering three stage wins and being in victory contention for much of the event. In their second WRC round of 2018, the #6 crew led three Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC cars inside the top-six with Andreas Mikkelsen finishing just off the podium in fourth and Thierry Neuville in sixth.

The combined team result has helped Hyundai Motorsport to extend its lead in the WRC manufacturers' championship. With points awarded for second and fourth, the team has built up a 12-point advantage after three rounds, its most competitive start to a WRC season.

Keep the pressure on

Sunday's final stages saw plenty more of the drama that has epitomised an exciting Rally México all weekend. Crews tackled the 24.32km Alfaro stage followed by two timed runs through the 11.07km Las Minas test.

Starting the day third overall, Sordo's focus was on securing a podium, with an eye on pushing for second place. An incident for Citroën's Kris Meeke on the opening stage helped the Spaniard, as he was elevated into the position. Fourth placed Mikkelsen closed the gap to Meeke but the Norwegian ran into his own difficulties in the rally's penultimate stage, getting briefly stuck in a ditch on SS21.

Neuville continued to gain experience of being first on the road on Sunday. The Belgian battled through to a solid sixth place, overcoming a number of issues during the weekend. In a closely fought Power Stage, with 1.4-seconds splitting the top-four times, Neuville took three extra points for third place with Mikkelsen taking two points for fourth.

Second place in the first gravel event of the season marks an improvement on the team's previous third-place Mexican podiums, achieved by Neuville in 2014 and 2017.

Crew Notes: Sordo/Del Barrio (#6 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

- First podium of 2018 and Sordo's best result since Spain 2016
- Seventh podium in total as a Hyundai Motorsport driver



Sordo said: *"I am very happy to score this podium after what has been an enjoyable, competitive but tough weekend. We have shown good pace here in previous seasons, so I was optimistic that we would be able to fight for the top-three this weekend. It wasn't entirely straightforward; even in the Power Stage there was a scary moment when we picked up a rear right puncture. With stones in the middle of the road, it was so easy for something to happen so we backed off and took it carefully to the end. A podium result is so important and we made the most of our road position in these really tricky gravel stages. It's been a good team effort and I am particularly pleased to see us increase our lead in the manufacturers' championship. Thanks to Carlos and to the whole team for this result."*

Crew Notes: Mikkelsen/Jæger (#4 Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC)

- Second fourth-place for Norwegians as Hyundai Motorsport crew
- Stage win in Saturday evening's SS19 and Power Stage points

Mikkelsen said: *"It has not been an easy rally for us, and we haven't really been able to find the optimum pace or performance that we needed here. We made some changes to the car in service on Saturday evening, and I felt more comfortable in this morning's final stages. We weren't really in a position to improve, so we simply tried to keep things clean and tidy. There were definitely areas where we could have attacked more, but finishing fourth gives us important points. As a team we have increased our lead in the manufacturers' table, and I have also moved up to third in the drivers' classification, which is a positive to take away."*

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

- Sixth place scores valuable driver points for the Belgian's championship
- Scored three additional points for third in Power Stage

Neuville said: *"We approached the final morning of the rally determined to score as many points as possible for the drivers' championship. I gave it all I could in the Power Stage, and I'm happy to take three extra points away from what has been a very tough weekend. Starting first on the road each day was far from ideal, but that's part of the game. It was actually a useful experience to deal with those conditions, despite the obvious time disadvantage. We had some other issues over the weekend, so to come away with sixth place and to keep up the pressure in the championship is important. Thanks to everyone in the team. We have a never-give-up mentality, and Corsica will be another story."*

Another one in the dust

- 35th team podium and best-ever result in Rally México
- Extending lead of manufacturers' championship with strong team result

Team Principal Michel Nandan said: *"We have witnessed once again just how tough Rally México can be, with lots of drama right up to the Power Stage! We are delighted to finish the weekend with our best ever Mexico result and to increase our lead of the manufacturers' championship. Dani and Carlos have had a strong weekend, and it's great to see them on the podium. Andreas and Thierry both picked up important points in the Power Stage, concluding a generally positive rally. Like all teams, we've had some issues to deal with along the way, but finishing with all three Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC cars inside the top-six in such a demanding event is very encouraging."*

Next rally

- The FIA World Rally Championship moves back to tarmac in a few weeks' time
- Corsica hosts the fourth round of the season from 5-8 April for the popular Tour de Corse
- Hyundai Motorsport will return to the Mediterranean island as defending winners

Final Overall Classification - Rally Mexico

1	S. Ogier	J. Ingrassia	Ford Fiesta WRC	3:54:08.0
2	D. Sordo	C. del Barrio	Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC	+1:03.6
3	K. Meeke	P. Nagle	Citroën C3 WRC	+1:19.2
4	A. Mikkelsen	A. Jæger	Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC	+1:38.4
5	S. Loeb	D. Elena	Citroën C3 WRC	+2:24.6
6	T. Neuville	N. Gilsoul	Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC	+9:03.0
7	P. Tidemand	J. Andersson	Škoda Fabia R5	+10:24.7
8	J. M Latvala	M. Anttila	Toyota Yaris WRC	+15:37.1
9	G. Greensmith	C. Parry	Ford Fiesta R5	+17:09.3
10	P. Heller	P. Olmos	Ford Fiesta R5	+24:18.1

2018 FIA World Rally Championship for Drivers' Standings

After round 3

1	S. Ogier	56
2	T. Neuville	52
3	A. Mikkelsen	35
4	K. Meeke	32
5	J.M Latvala	31
6	O. Tanak	26
7	E. Lappi	23
8	C. Breen	20
9	D. Sordo	18
10	H. Paddon	10

2018 FIA World Rally Championship for Manufacturers' Standings

After round 3

1	Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team	84
2	M-Sport Ford World Rally Team	72
3	Citroën Total Abu Dhabi World Rally Team	71
4	Toyota Gazoo Racing World Rally Team	67

All results remain subject to official FIA confirmation.

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 has contested its fourth season. The team registered its first win of 2017 at Tour de Corse before following that up with victories in Argentina, Poland and the season finale in Australia. 2018 represents Hyundai Motorsport's fifth season in the WRC.

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 2017 sold 4.5 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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