



Media Information  
Dakar Rally 2018  
10 January 2018

## Dakar Rally 2018 – Stage 4: San Juan de Marcona - San Juan de Marcona

- Mikko Hirvonen secures 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in Stage 4.
- Jakub 'Kuba' Przygonski now 10<sup>th</sup> overall.
- Al Rajhi and Garafulic begin fightback.

**Munich.** Delayed by heavy fog, Stage 4 finally got off to a spectacular start with the car category getting under way in groups of four, side-by-side. The noise of competition engines was pure entertainment for the masses of spectators that lined the starting point of a long stretch with ocean views. For the competitors it signalled the start of another hot day and the prospect of 330km special stage consisting of dunes, sand and soil interlaced with stony areas.

Mikko Hirvonen (FIN) and Andreas Schulz (DEU) in the all-new MINI John Cooper Works Buggy were the first of the MINI Family to complete Stage 4 and did so in style. At the end of the 440km stage, Hirvonen was checked through as completing in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

**Hirvonen:** "Today was pretty good. We didn't have a lot of issues. Two times we had to turn back and try to find the waypoint. There was also a lot of dust. I'm happy that we were able to show the potential of the MINI John Cooper Works Buggy."

Yazeed Al Rajhi (KSA) and Timo Gottschalk (DEU) in the second MINI John Cooper Works Buggy also claimed a top ten stage finish with 9<sup>th</sup> place. With Rajhi driving at the same fast pace that has made him a noted cross-country specialist, his MINI JCW Buggy is now placed 23<sup>rd</sup> overall, which is a superb result given that after Stage 3 it was classed 49<sup>th</sup>.

**Yazeed Al Rajhi:** "We stopped two times. One time to replace the tyre, and another for a small technical problem. But all in all it was much better day."

Once again Jakub 'Kuba' Przygonski (POL) and Tom Colsoul (BEL) drove at a measured pace to maintain their consistent performance so far. It was a good tactic because it kept possible problems to a minimum and rewarded the crew with 12<sup>th</sup> place at stage end. This result now places them inside the top ten overall leaders at position 10.

**Przygonski:** “It was a tough and long day. A lot of things happened on this stage. We had three punctures and, of course, we had no spares remaining so we started to worry about this. We got stuck in one canyon and the dunes were really soft, which meant sometimes they were impossible to cross and we had to go around because we couldn’t get up. Then there was the dust...”

Also in fighting mood was the crew of Boris Garafulic (CHI) and co-driver Filipe Palmeiro (POR). Determined to make up for lost time during Stage 2, the pair did exactly that by finishing today’s stage in 14<sup>th</sup>. This places them 24<sup>th</sup> in the overall race classification, up from 55<sup>th</sup>, and directly behind MINI Family members Al Rajhi / Timo Gottschalk.

Orlando Terranova (ARG) and Bernardo Graue (ARG) were victims of a racing incident, which saw them roll the MINI John Cooper Works Rally. However, they managed to get underway again to complete the stage.

Stage 5, San Juan de Marcona – Arequipa will see competitors take in 666 kilometres of liaison and 268km of special stage. For more information about Dakar 2018, please visit the host’s event home page [here](#).

## Dakar Rally 2018: MINI results after Stage 4

Pos	Driver	Co-driver	#	MINI	Team	Time
10	Jakub Przygonski (POL)	Tom Colsoul (BEL)	312	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	Orlen Team	012:11:37 +01:35:30
12	Mikko Hirvonen (FIN)	Andreas Schulz (DEU)	305	MINI John Cooper Works Buggy	X-raid Team	013:15:49 +02:39:42
23	Yazeed Al Rajhi (KSA)	Timo Gottschalk (DEU)	314	MINI John Cooper Works Buggy	X-raid Team	019:45:06 +09:08:59
24	Boris Garafulic (CHI)	Filipe Palmeiro (POR)	317	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	X-raid Team	023:48:10 +13:12:03
TBC	Orlando Terranova (ARG)	Bernardo Graue (Arg)	307	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	X-raid Team	TBC

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