



PRESS INFORMATION

TEAM GALP ENERGIA

BAJA ANTA DA SERRA 500 PORTALEGRE

Friday October 21st 2005

PROLOGUE : 7 km

Carlos Sousa makes a good start with the Nissan Navara

Setting the fifth fastest time in the Prologue for the 19th Baja Portalegre, Carlos Sousa quickly found his bearings again. With Jean Marie Lurquin as his navigator, the Portuguese driver said that he had a good feeling for the vehicle, and seemed rather satisfied not to have to open the stage for tomorrow's first timed sector. A strategy that will allow him to adapt his rhythm according to the competition.

Grey skies and rain greeted the competitors for the start of the event. Unlike last year, the weather has been decidedly inclement over the Portalegre region over the last two days.

Carlos Sousa likes driving in the rain, a fact he does not try to hide. Over the seven kilometres of this Prologue, the Team Galp Energia driver was able to get his bearings and to familiarise himself with the Nissan Navara, in which he has had little time to date.

« From the third corner onwards, I was already on the pace. My confidence grew, and I drove faster and faster. Not enough to win, but that was not my aim. I have a good feeling for the vehicle, and Jean-Marie did a good job. I did not want to take any unnecessary risks, as it would have served no useful purpose. I am not really a Prologue specialist, but having looked at the times set by our rivals, I am not dissatisfied. The ground was quite slippery in some areas. I am satisfied with the balance of the car, and with its handling. All in all, it was a good start. »

Jean-Marie Lurquin did not contradict his driver.

« We did some reconnaissance by motorbike, going round the route twice. Carlos drove very well today. The fifth-fastest time suits us perfectly, as we do not want to have to open the route. It's perfect ! »

The task of opening the stage will fall to Carlos Sainz. If the weather continues to be as damp as today, some parts of the route could turn into quagmires. Conditions which could be pleasing to the best of the Portuguese drivers.

The day's programme includes two timed stages, 170 km and 223 km respectively, separated by a visit to the service park. It should be a good day...

PRESS CONTACT INFORMATION

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CLASSIFICATION OF THE PROLOGUE (7Km)

Ps	Nr	TEAM	DRIVER	CO-DRIVER	MAKE	MODEL	CAT	TIME
1	305	Volkswagen Motorsport	Carlos Sainz	Andreas Schulz	Volkswagen	Touareg	T1	5:23.080
2	301	Volkswagen Motorsport	Bruno Saby	Michel Perin	Volkswagen	Touareg	T1	5:28.460
3	304	Mitsubishi Motor Sports	Luc Alphand	Gilles Picard	Mitsubishi	Evo	T1	5:29.470
4	303	Mitsubishi Motor Sports	Hiroshi Masuoka	Pascal Maimon	Mitsubishi	Evo	T1	5:32.800
5	302	Team Galp Energia	Carlos Sousa	Jean Marie Lurquin	Nissan	Pick Up Navara	T1	5:33.890
6	309	Ramalho Couto Fitagest Team	Rui Sousa	Carlos Silva	Nissan	Pick Up Navara	T1	5:34.080
7	306	Volkswagen Motorsport	Jutta Kleinschmidt	Fabrizia Pons	Volkswagen	Touareg	T1	5:35.320
8	310	Volkswagen Motorsport	Mark Miller	Dirk Zitzewitz	Volkswagen	Touareg	T1	5:35.620
9	308	Team CTT Expresso	Miguel Barbosa	Miguel Ramalho	BMW	X5	T1	5:36.290
10	313	Nissan Motor España, SA	Marc Blazquez	Ignacio Salvador	Nissan	Pick Up Navara	T1	5:37.270

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CONTACTS PRESS AND PHOTOS

NISMO Liaison Office Europe

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Photos

An internet photo site dedicated to Team GALP ENERGIA is available, where high-resolution photos can be downloaded (copyright-free photos for press use only). This site will be updated every day during the event. To use the site, go to the following address, then identify yourself with the name and password given :

Address : www.nismopress.com

Username : nismo

Password : press