

*Team Desso*  
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## PRESS INFO – CHINA GRAND RALLY 2014

### Team Desso's colours shine brightly on the China Grand Rally!

The second edition of the China Grand Rally has just finished, with the crew of Miao Ma - Liao Ming finishing on the third step of the podium in their Proto Desso N05. The result of a collaboration that started three years ago, this is a fine reward for the many exchanges which have taken place between the two teams. André Desso was able to spend a few days of this grand-scale race with the Chinese team, and was therefore able to fully appreciate the progress made by the crew, who were driving the car for the first time. A look back on two incredible weeks.



Under the supervision of Hubert Auriol, this was just the second edition of the China Grand Rally. Run over two weeks, the race lives up to the immense scale of the country. And although Christian Lavieille claimed victory this year, behind the wheel of a Chinese car, the European competitors are quite rare, with one major exception: Team Dessoude...

Three years ago, the team from Saint-Lô began its collaboration with the China Kunming East Racing Sport team. Three rewarding years for both parties, as André Dessoude confirmed.



*« We sold the Proto 05 to this team three years ago. Right away, the Chinese staff wanted us to be involved in the future of the car, very much aware that they needed our experience to learn and to make progress. This project, combining follow-up and teaching, really interested me, and the conditions under which it has taken place have been optimal.*

*"Therefore, since the sale took place, our engineer, Adrien Favarel and the head of our workshop, Richard Morel, have been making regular trips to China to check what has been done to the car, and to give technical training. We provide technical assistance, but also give training to ensure the essential elements necessary to run a team : managing spare parts, wear and tear, the working methods best adapted to this or that operation and so on...*

*When there is a request for an upgrade, we undertake the feasibility study. We do the big work in Saint-Lô and all the more 'normal' things take place in China, under the supervision of our personnel.*

*The strangest thing is that we don't speak the same language, but that does not seem to be a hurdle for this Franco-Chinese collaboration.»*





For an event like the China Grand Rally, the team from Saint-Lô left France a week before the race got underway, to do some tests and to help train the service crews for the race. As far as the race is concerned, André Dessoude found the result to be very positive.

*« I am pleased with this result, the third step on the podium was well merited. The car did not have any major technical problems, except for a puncture and a slight worry with the power steering on one stage. I was stunned by the quality of the work from the team of 18 people, who are not very experienced. In four months, they have perfectly rebuilt a 05. »*



*"But it was the crew that was the most surprising, making rapid progress throughout the race. The driver, Miao Ma, is very calm and always ready to listen, to any advice he is given, but also to his car. His driving style is very clean, really respecting the car. The navigator also showed fine skills. They really deserve to take part in a major international event. We are trying to convince them to enter the Dakar with this crew, which would be a far from silly move. They are very good, and they would like to do a good job. I think that the Chinese language seems to lack that famous phrase ... « Yes, but... »*

*"I really enjoy working with this Chinese team, but I also find it very satisfying to share my experience with them. There is a very warm relationship. They learn quickly, perhaps too quickly... »*



Waiting for January's traditional and essential meeting in South America, Team Dessoude will head for Morocco next month. From October 3rd to 9th, on the Rally Oilibya of Morocco, the team from Saint-Lô will enter three cars over the 2000 km race, including 1,450 km of timed sectors, divided into six stages.

« We are pleased to be racing in Morocco again. We will have three cars taking part, including two in the hands of Gentlemen Drivers. One Pathfinder T1 will be in the hands of Laurent Lévêque and Thierry Pacquelet, and the other will be driven by Pascal Lhomme. The third entry will be for the Juke Buggy of Thierry Magnaldi and François Borsotto. The French driver from the Var region, who competed in the Dakar with the first version of the Juke, will be able to appreciate the changes which have been made to this surprising vehicle.»

It's a date, then, in Morocco from October 3rd to 9th.



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