**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 22 April 2021**

**Day: 1 Flash N°: 1**

**Special stage: Shakedown Medvedgrad Distance: 4.60 km**

**Weather: Bright blue skies, 16 degrees**

**Road conditions: Relatively clean for first run, some gravel on road for later passes**

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**Car #69. KALLE ROVANPERÄ/JONNE HALTTUNEN**

“It’s nice to be in this position for sure but after the recce on Friday it looks like the conditions of the roads are already dirty and for sure it will not help us so much to be first. But it’s a nice feeling.”

**Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE**

No comment available

**Car #1. SÉBASTIEN OGIER/JULIEN INGRASSIA**

“Very excited. The road looks fun with different sections. It could be everything to make a nice rally.”

**Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN**

“The car’s feeling good [with the new aero package], all okay so far.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

“We are in a different part of the world now but for sure the target for this weekend is to continue the momentum.”

**Car #42. CRAIG BREEN/PAUL NAGLE**

“It’s very, very difficult. It’s tough to get back into the car again. I was in the R5 the last time and things come at you a lot quicker in this one. But all okay at the moment.”

**Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/DANIEL BARRITT**

“It’s going to be a very challenging weekend. Of course, I try to be very sturdy and get even more confident. But it’s going to be very tricky. I try to build my confidence the entire weekend and try to learn a lot of things from this tricky rally.”

**Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/CHRIS PATTERSON**

No comment available

**Car #16. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/RENAUD JAMOUL**

“It was just enjoyable to be honest. I am so happy I have a smile all the stage. Okay, the stage was quite twisty and narrow. It’s not the easiest one for the first time but honestly I am enjoying and we will see if we can improve. But I’m just happy.”

**Car #7. PIERRE-LOUIS LOUBET/VINCENT LANDAIS**

No comment available

**Car #20. ANDREAS MIKKELSEN/OLA FLØENE**

“It’s going to be a big challenge, really beautiful roads, the shakedown is quite tricky with a lot of edges. It will be a long rally and we’ll need to take car but I’m happy with the car.”

**Car #21. NIKOLAY GRYAZIN/KONSTANTIN ALEKSANDROV**

“The WRC rounds are not the same like some of the local rallies we have been doing but we made a good warm-up, shakedown is just for checking the car. I will see for the second pass. Everything is fine, car is working good. The stages are really nice and it’s very good to see the spectators after this long time with COVID. It’s really exciting, see you on the stages.”

**Car #22. MARCO BULACIA/MARCELO OHANNESIAN**

“It will be a very difficult race. We expect to be… somehow we need to manage to keep on the road but also show some pace.”

**Car #23. ENRICO BRAZZOLI/MAURIZIO BARONE**

“We are on the tyres we use for tomorrow and it’s very slippery. Now we try to see with the car.”

**Car #24. MADS ØSTBERG/TORSTEIN ERIKSEN**

“It is a great feeling, it’s good to be back in the car of course. There is a lot we need to learn about this rally over the weekend so it’s a big challenge ahead.”

**Car #25. TEMMU SUNINEN/MIKO MARKKULA**

“It’s difficult, especially when now I have my first driving on dry Tarmac so not very easy. But we are trying to do our best and let’s see what we can do.”

**Car #26. TOM KRISTENSSON/DAVID ARHUSIANDER**

“I really can’t believe it. I just try to live in the now and just try to enjoy and I definitely do. The car feels just brilliant and I am so happy to drive. I am driving with a smile on my face all the time. I am really thankful for this and I just go forward now.”

**COMMENTS**

Shakedown for the first Croatia Rally to count for the FIA World Rally Championship took place in warm and sunny conditions with a clear road surface for the first pass. Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin were fastest in a Toyota Yaris WRC followed by Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe. World championship leaders Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen were third fastest. The majority of leading crews completed three runs, although Gus Greensmith/Chris Patterson completed four passes of the 4.60-kilometre Medvedgrad stage.