**STAGE FLASH**

**Date: 24 April 2021**

**Day: 3 Flash N°: 17**

**Special stage: SS16 Vinski Vrh - Duga Resa 2 Distance: 8.78 km**

**Weather: Bright blue skies, 18 degrees**

**Road conditions: Dry, largely clean but gravel dragged onto road in some sections**

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

“I’m pretty happy. It has been a very long day, already two days, but there are a lot of things I learned. Still, I need to learn a lot of things and improve a lot but obviously the confidence is coming and some conditions I’m pretty happy with my driving. Still a long way to go but it’s going in the right direction, definitely.”

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

Crashed on SS14.

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

“[My chat at lunchtime] was with a few people. They told me to shut up, stop complaining and do a bit of driving. It was a better afternoon, a bit smoother, a bit more chilled.”

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

“It was an amazing day for us, we have a really good pace on the first stage of the loop. We were really focused on this stage for the day and when we are focused on one stage we have a good time. It’s really positive for us. For the last three stages we are a bit more careful, but the time is not so bad to be honest. It was an amazing day for us.”

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

“I actually don’t know what to tell you. I think it’s quite clear I’m far away from where I should be.”

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

No quote available.

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

“We’re there or thereabouts. Of course [the target is to win].”

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

“It’s been a good day for sure. The only issue was a puncture, otherwise I think we can be happy, the rhythm was good. Of course [tomorrow will be a fight with Elfyn] and Thierry as well is not far. It’s going to be a fun Sunday.”

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

“We tried to fight back this afternoon when we had better tyres on the car. It’s still difficult. I had an issue with my jack and I couldn’t change tyres all afternoon loop so my tyres were already a bit dead for the last stage. I tried to continue to push. Obviously we expected to lose a little bit.”

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

“The performance has been good and we have been able to increase our pace and drive more controlled in the afternoon so I’ve enjoyed that. We have a little bit of a gap now but for sure we need to stay focused for tomorrow. It’s a long, long day and the Power Stage is probably the trickiest stage of the rally so it’s still a long way to go but we are happy with our day.”

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

“We are Russian, we are simple. If the team told me just to drive, I am driving. If the car has some issues, it’s a car problem, not my problem so we are doing our target. You know I am not caring about the result. For sure it’s nice when you have a good result, it’s like when you can start to kiss a girl after a date, it’s nice. But I will tell you one famous guy told, ‘we are [inaudible]’ so I am happy.”

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

“It’s been quite a good rally and I really enjoyed the challenge. The fighting is quite tight so I keep pushing and try to keep my position and show some good pace.”

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

“We are improving stage by stage, today was very positive day for us and another day when we showed some good pace. Anyway, I am very happy to be here. It’s been a very tricky rally and the last day will also be difficult. The Power Stage is very tricky so we need to pass these stages and let’s see if we can be at the finish of the rally.”

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

No quote available.

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

Crashed on SS9.

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

“It’s not bad, I try to learn the stages for the years to come and try to do a good job as well. When you are not fighting for something the seconds fly on Tarmac even though we feel we are driving well, the time is not very good. It all comes when you are really, really pushing on Tarmac you are a lot faster. I’m just saving myself for the Power Stage.”

**COMMENTS**

Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia rounded out leg two with the fastest time on SS16 to hold an overnight lead of 6.9s ahead of their Toyota team-mates Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin, who were 0.4s slower through the stage. Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe were third fastest, 1.0s adrift of Ogier/Ingrassia. With four stages on Sunday remaining, the top three are covered by 10.4s.