

## Hyundai Shell World Rally Team celebrate historic 1-2 at home in Rallye Deutschland

- The Hyundai Shell World Rally Team has today claimed its maiden victory in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) with an historic 1-2 in Rallye Deutschland, its ninth WRC event.
- Thierry Neuville took his debut WRC win with a fantastic performance in the #7 Hyundai i20 WRC car.
- Last year's Rallye Deutschland winner, Dani Sordo, finished second in his Hyundai i20 WRC to give the team something remarkable to celebrate in its home rally.

Trier, Germany

August 24, 2014 - The Hyundai Shell World Rally Team has today scored a sensational maiden victory in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) with Thierry Neuville leading team-mate Dani Sordo home for an historic 1-2 finish in only the team's ninth WRC event.

The team, run by Hyundai Motorsport from its factory in Alzenau, around 225km from Rallye Deutschland's service park in Trier, has only been in existence for just over one year and a half so today's result is even more poignant.

The script for this weekend's rally was straight out of a fairy tale: from a major crash in shakedown on Thursday that threatened Neuville's participation in the event, the mechanics working a remarkable 18 hour shift to fix the car in time for Friday morning's start to winning the team's debut WRC event on Sunday afternoon. It has been a dramatic rally but one from which the Hyundai Shell World Rally Team has emerged victorious.

Neuville (#7 Hyundai i20 WRC, co-driver Nicolas Gilsoul) put the drama of shakedown firmly behind him when the stages got underway on Friday morning. The Belgian has not put a foot wrong since and has determinedly made his way up through the classification since the opening day. He was fully in contention for a podium at the start of Sunday, embroiled in a close battle for second but the retirements of the two leading cars in consecutive stages elevated the Belgian to the rally lead. Neuville then kept his focus to bring the #7 Hyundai i20 WRC car home for the win - his first in WRC. The Belgian brings home also two extra points for being second fastest in the Power Stage - the last stage of the rally.

Neuville said: *"I am really happy for the entire Hyundai Shell World Rally Team and everyone back at the factory in Alzenau. Everyone has worked so hard in the past year to get us to where we are this*



*season so to celebrate my debut WRC win with them is very special. It is even better that we have a 1-2 in our home event. I am particularly thankful for the team's hard work this weekend. They did a fantastic job after our roll on Thursday to get the car repaired which makes this result more incredible. We have had three competitive days and we have been able to put the pressure on. Of course, it was a shame to see Jari Matti (Latvala) and Kris (Meeke) retire this morning, but that reinforced the need for us to remain focussed and concentrated. The conditions were very difficult so we had to take it steady to the end. It's a great result and one which we will certainly never forget."*

Sordo (#8 Hyundai i20 WRC, co-driver Marc Martí) also had a competitive rally in Germany, an event he won so memorably in 2013. The Spaniard, in his first WRC event since Argentina in May, got quickly reacquainted with the car and the team to post impressive stage times from the start of the rally. He was in the hunt for a podium at the end of Friday but he lost a lot of time on Saturday afternoon when he aquaplaned into a spin. Nonetheless, he kept going and benefitted from others' misfortune in Sunday's opening stages to take second place behind his team-mate. He then drove masterfully not only to keep the car on the road but also to defend his second place - his first podium of 2014 and contributing to the team's incredible 1-2 result.

*Sordo said: "This is a great result for the whole team and a testament to all the people who work so hard in the team and at the factory. To get our first 1-2 is fantastic. Normally, I would prefer to be the one scoring the win but I am happy with second and I am pleased for Thierry. It has been a tough rally so we were focussed on getting to the finish safely. I have to say the team has really developed a lot since I was last competing, both in terms of the operations and the car performance. We can really use this result to continue our momentum and our learning in our first year."*

Bryan Bouffier (#20 Hyundai i20 WRC, co-driver Xavier Panseri) completed Rallye Deutschland under Rally 2 regulations following his coming together with a Hinkelstein on Saturday's final stage. The mechanics worked their magic to allow the Frenchman to rejoin the rally this morning but unfortunately he went off at the start of the Power Stage and was unable to complete the event.

*Bouffier said: "I am disappointed that I haven't been able to complete this rally. The conditions have not been easy and I was just caught out in the final stage. The positive fact is that the team has been rewarded with a fantastic 1-2 result, so congratulations to Thierry for the win and Dani for second. This result will represent a huge motivational boost for the entire team, who have worked so hard in the past year and a half. Having been part of the journey since last year, I feel very close to this team and I share in the joy of this result with all of them."*

The Hyundai Shell World Rally Team is understandably overjoyed with the 1-2 result and becoming a winning WRC manufacturer so early in its young programme. The team has demonstrated its intent to the WRC and shown steady improvement throughout the season but winning was never on the agenda in this learning year.

Team Principal Michel Nandan said: *“I feel a little bit like I am still dreaming. We could never imagine that coming here, in just our ninth WRC rally, that we would be celebrating a 1-2 result. It is quite remarkable and very special. It has been a busy weekend with some tough conditions and requiring everyone to be at the absolute top of their game. Our team has been absolutely first class and it is thanks to each of them - here and at Alzenau - that we have this result today. The drivers have been on competitive form since the first stage and they thoroughly deserve this. To see Thierry take his first win and Dani on the podium is wonderful. We wanted to use this year as a learning year and we won't let this result carry us away. However, we have made continuous progress and our Hyundai i20 WRC is improving all the time. We benefitted from the unfortunate retirement of other drivers today but we were genuinely fighting for the podium and that reflects the progress we have made as a team. For now, we will enjoy the moment and thank everyone for their support of our young team.”*

### **Hyundai Motorsport's WRC Journey so far**

September 2012: Official announcement of Hyundai's return to WRC at Paris Motorshow

December 2012: Creation of Hyundai Motorsport GmbH

March 2013: Upgraded version of i20WRC presented at Geneva Motorshow

May 2013: First shakedown and first test with the i20 WRC

June 2013: Hyundai Motorsport GmbH Opening Ceremony

July 2013: First tests with the 2014-specification of the i20 WRC

December 2013: Launch of Hyundai Shell World Rally Team

January 2014: First rally participation (Rallye Monte-Carlo)

March 2014: First WRC podium (Rally Mexico)

April 2014: First WRC stage wins (Rally Portugal)

May 2014: Debut rally win for Hyundai i20 WRC (Rallye Antibes)

June 2014: First 1-2 stage wins for Hyundai i20 WRC (Rally Italia Sardegna)

July 2014: First 3-car finish for team and second podium (Rally Poland)

August 2014: Debut victory and 1-2 in Rallye Deutschland

## Overall Final Classification

1. T. Neuville / N. Gilsoul (Hyundai i20 WRC) 3:07:20.2
2. D. Sordo / M. Martí (Hyundai i20 WRC) +40.7
3. A. Mikkelsen / O. Floene (Volkswagen Polo R WRC) +58.0
4. E. Evans / D. Barritt (Ford Fiesta RS WRC) +1:03.6
5. M. Hirvonen / J. Lehtinen (Ford Fiesta RS WRC) +1:10.5
6. M. Østberg / J. Andersson (Citroën DS3 WRC) +1:22.7
7. M. Prokop / J. Tomanek (Ford Fiesta RS WRC) +4:52.8
8. D. Kuipers / R. Buysmans (Ford Fiesta RS WRC) +9:18.1
9. P. Tidemand / E. Axelsson (Ford Fiesta R5) +11:35.4
10. O. Tanak / R. Molder (Ford Fiesta R5) +11:37.2

## 2014 FIA World Rally Championship for Drivers' Standings

S. Ogier 187 points / J.M. Latvala 143 / A. Mikkelsen 110 / M. Østberg 74 / T. Neuville 73 / M. Hirvonen 73 / E. Evans 57 / K. Meeke 54 / M. Prokop 37 / H. Solberg 26 / J. Hänninen 20 / B. Bouffier 18 / D. Sordo 18 / R. Kubica 12 / O. Tanak 11 / B. Guerra 8 / H. Paddon 8 / C. Atkinson 6 / P. Tidemand 6 / J. Melicharek 4 / D. Kuipers 4 / N. Al-Attyiah 3 / M. Gamba 2 / C. Breen 2 / J. Protasov 2 / L. Bertelli 2 / J. Ketomaa 1 / K. Al Qassimi 1 / K. Kruuda 1

## 2014 FIA World Rally Championship for Manufacturers' Standings

Volkswagen Motorsport 305 points / Citroën Total Abu Dhabi World Rally Team 138 / **Hyundai Motorsport 131** / M-Sport World Rally Team 128 / Volkswagen Motorsport II 109 / Jipocar Czech National Team 42 / RK M-Sport World Rally Team 21 / **Hyundai Motorsport N 12**

All results remain subject to official FIA confirmation

-Ends -

### **About Hyundai Motor Company**

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Company is committed to becoming a lifetime partner in automobiles and beyond. The company, which leads the Hyundai Motor Group, an innovative business structure capable of circulating resources from molten iron to finished cars, offers top-quality best-sellers such as Elantra, Sonata and Genesis. Hyundai Motor has seven manufacturing bases and seven design & technical centers outside of South Korea and in 2013, sold 4.73 million vehicles globally. With almost 100,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai Motor continues to enhance its product line-up with localized models and strives to strengthen its leadership in clean technology, starting with the world's first mass-produced hydrogen-powered vehicle, ix35 Fuel Cell.

More information about Hyundai Motor and its products can be found at: <http://worldwide.hyundai.com> or <http://www.hyundaiglobalnews.com>

### **About Hyundai Motorsport GmbH**

Established on 19 December 2012, Hyundai Motorsport GmbH is responsible for Hyundai's global motorsport activities and primarily for its World Rally Championship programme. Based in Alzenau on the outskirts of Frankfurt in Germany, the company has embarked on its debut season in the FIA World Rally Championship in 2014 with a bespoke team of skilled staff and a brand new car, the Hyundai i20 WRC.

Further information about Hyundai Motorsport is available at: <http://motorsport.hyundai.com>

To download high resolution photos for editorial use, full driver's profiles, audio podcasts as well as other useful press information about the team please refer to:

[www.hyundai-ms.com](http://www.hyundai-ms.com)

Username : HyundaiWRC

Password : hmsg2013

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