

PRESS RELEASE no. 15

Kopecký, Sordo and Lukyanuk are favourites

The 48th Barum Czech Rally Zlín (24th - 26th August 2018) promises a rally of the top quality given the names on the List of Entries. 138 entries were received from competitors from 26 countries and for the European Championship signed 80 crews. Even drivers from exotic countries like Taiwan, Brazil, Japan and Iceland are coming to Zlín. **There is a striking number of 36 cars in R5 category.** The favourites are Jan Kopecký, Daniel Sordo and Alexey Lukyanuk.

Daniel Sordo from Spain is a Hyundai factory driver and one of the best in the world, Jan Kopecký (Škoda Fabia RD) from factory team Škoda Motorsport has won Barum rally six times, more than anyone else, and Alexey Lukyanuk (Ford Fiesta R5) is a current leader in ERC 2018. But there are other drivers that have the potential to reach the top like Bruno Magalhães, a Portuguese driver currently holding the second position in overall ERC classification, then Norbert Hercig from Hungary, Nikolay Gryazin who is from Russia but has Latvian license, Rhys Yates and Chris Ingram from Great Britain, another Hungarian driver with high aspirations is Dávid Botka, then Orhan Avcioglu from Turkey - all of them are driving Škoda Fabia R5. Moreover, Eyvind Brynildsen from Norway, Hermann Neubauer from Austria, and former Polish champion Lukasz Habaj - Ford Fiesta R5, and Aleks Zawada, from Poland on Hyundai i20 R5 and Laurent Pellier from France on Peugeot 208 T16. The Czech colours aside from Kopecký are represented by Václav Pech, Jan Černý (both on Ford Fiesta R5), Filip Mareš, Jaromír Tarabus, Vojtěch Štajf (all on Škoda Fabia R5). But there are more of them who are secretly hoping to reach top ten - Roman Odložilík, Martin Vlček, Ondřej Bisaha (all on Ford Fiesta R5), Miroslav Jakeš, Antonín Tlusták, Tomáš Pospíšilík and Martin Březík (all on Škoda Fabia R5). In the ERC2 category are drivers from Hungary - Tibor Érdi jr. and Csaba Juhász (both on Mitsubishi Lancer EVO X). Simone Tempestini from Romania on Fiat 124 Abarth RGT is one to look for in the RGT category. This category counts six crews and in the Czech championship there are four GT cars.

The favourites in FWD category within ERC3/U27 are Martins Sesks from Latvia, Tom Kristensson from Sweden (both on Opel Adam R2, Elfrén Llaren from Spain, Mikka Hokkanen from Finland and Simon Wagner from Austria (all on Peugeot 208 R2). Other drivers who intend to race in Zlín include Mattia Vita from Italy, Julian Wagner from Austria (both on Peugeot 208 R2), Sindre Furuseth from Norway, and Gregoire Munster from Luxembourg (both on Opel Adam R2). The latter is a son of a former great driver Bernard Munster. The list of the top Czech drivers in FWD includes Dominik Brož, Matěj Kamenec, Jan Talaš, René Dohnal, Erik Cais (all on Peugeot 208 R2) and Andrej Barčák (Opel Adam R2).

If we add 93 cars from Star Rally Historic and Rally Legend category, there will be 231 competing cars on Barum rally. Motorsport fans have something to look forward to for the last summer weekend in Zlín.

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Roman ORDELT
Press Relations Officer
Barum Czech Rally Zlín



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