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PRESS RELEASE

Podium Finish for Team De Rooy & Goodyear in Dakar Rally

De Rooy truck team takes 3rd and 4th on standard Goodyear tires

**Brussels, January 20th, 2017** – Despite leading the event for several stages and successfully battling terrible conditions, Team De Rooy had to settle for 3rd and 4th places in the truck category of the 2017 Dakar. Driving Iveco Powerstar 4X4s equipped with standard Goodyear ORD tires, Dutchman Gerard De Rooy in truck #500 and Argentinian Federico Villagra in truck #502 covered 8,500 kilometers of the challenging terrain, finishing close behind the two Russian Kamaz trucks. The remaining two Team De Rooy trucks finished a creditable 16th and 17th out of the 50 trucks that entered.

"*The aim this year was at least a podium, and we achieved that. We had one bad day, and you can't really blame anyone for that. I can live with third place*," said Gerard De Rooy. “*Navigation was the decisive factor in this Dakar. It's fine if it's difficult. It's supposed to be difficult. I liked the fact that things changed from day to day as everyone made mistakes. But it was a bit too hard at some points, because it wasn't clear what they meant*. *As ever tires played a crucial role but this year the weather conditions made tire performance more important than ever. Our continued partnership with Goodyear meant we had the best possible tires and set up for our team in the world’s most challenging race.*"

Team De Rooy again chose 375/90R22.5 Goodyear ORD truck tires for the race trucks and Goodyear Omnitrac MSD II mixed service tires for the service trucks. The choice of tire was due to the close collaboration between Team De Rooy and Goodyear that saw Gerard De Rooy win last year and Federico Villagra take 3rd. Goodyear has enjoyed a long and successful partnership with Team De Rooy and worked extensively to ensure the best possible tire combinations and set-up for the trucks.

“*We congratulate Gerard De Rooy on his podium finish. The terrible conditions endured by the entrants this year, with roads being washed away and deep mud, underlined just how vital tires were in this event,*” said Benjamin Willot, Director Marketing Commercial Tires at Goodyear Europe, Middle East and Africa.  *“We are proud to support Gerard and his team yet again, not only with our products, but with the support of our engineers who have worked hard behind the scenes to ensure that the Team De Rooy trucks have the best possible grip, reliability and set up for what is without doubt the world’s toughest test for tires.”*

For 12 days, driver Gerard De Rooy, co-driver Moises Torrallardona and mechanic Darek Rodewald battled some of the toughest terrain to be found anywhere to beat off the 49 other trucks in the rally. They started in Asuncion, Paraguay on January 2 driving mainly off-road, continued through Bolivia and down into Buenos Aries, Argentina where the event ended on January 14. The 11 stages (one stage was cancelled due to weather conditions) of the Dakar covered some 8,500 kilometers including mud slides, deserts, high mountains and rocks. In all, more than 300 bikes, quads, cars, utility vehicles and trucks took part in the rally with 222 classed as finishing.

**About Goodyear**

Goodyear is one of the world’s largest tire companies. It employs approximately 66,000 people and manufactures its products in 49 facilities in 22 countries around the world. Its two Innovation Centers in Akron, Ohio and Colmar-Berg, Luxembourg strive to develop state-of-the-art products and services that set the technology and performance standard for the industry.

Goodyear Dunlop Europe’s range of tires for commercial vehicles, buses and coaches includes more than 400 different tires covering in excess of 55 sizes. Many of the world's leading commercial vehicle manufacturers fit tires from Goodyear as standard, including DAF, Iveco, MAN, Mercedes-Benz, Renault Trucks, Scania and Volvo Trucks. Goodyear also supplies tires to all major trailer manufacturers. With FleetFirst, which includes the TruckForce service network, ServiceLine24h roadside assistance, FleetOnlineSolutions Internet management system and Goodyear Retread Technologies, Goodyear provides one of the broadest ranges of dedicated services in the industry.

For more information on Goodyear and its products, visit [www.truck.goodyear.eu](http://www.truck.goodyear.eu).