

Silk Way Rally 2017: IVECO on the podium of the first stage from Moscow to Tcheboksary

In a short special of just 61 timed kilometres, Dutchman Ton van Genugten's IVECO Trakker finished in third place, just over 2 minutes behind the winner and ahead of teammates Gerard de Rooy's and Artur Ardavichus's IVECO Powerstars

Gerard de Rooy finished in fifth position and Kazakh pilot Artur Ardavichus in sixth place just 5 seconds behind the team leader

Today the race will take the drivers from Tcheboksary to Ufa in a second stage that will require the competitors' best driving skills.

Tcheboksary, 9 July 2017

The 7th edition of the Silk Way Rally is underway. The first special stage started yesterday early in the afternoon after a long transfer from Moscow: 61 km on the banks of River Volga ending at the bivouac hosted by Tcheboksary airport. Team PETRONAS De Rooy IVECO mastered the muddy and slippery track, with **Ton van Genugten**, IVECO's man of the day, finishing the stage in third place on board his #306 Trakker. He crossed the finish line just +2m03s from the first position.

Gerard De Rooy and his new IVECO Powerstar finished in the top 5 +4m01s behind the winner. *"We started slowly this short stage to take confidence with the truck: the new Powerstar feels good even on the mud – said Team leader De Rooy – The heavy rain has complicated the driving because it's not easy to see, but for the first day of Silk Way Rally I think we did a good job! We didn't risk anything and the renovated IVECO behaved very well".*

Artur Ardavichus didn't take risks either behind the wheel of the second IVECO Powerstar (#310) and achieved a 6th position in this first stage: the Kazakh driver, on board with Belgian co-pilot Bruynkens and Dutch mechanic Huisman, closed the day placing the third IVECO truck in the top 6.

Today Team PETRONAS De Rooy IVECO will be engaged in the 2nd stage, which will take them from Tcheboksary to Ufa with a leg distance of 785,63 km and a special stage of 157 km. The "Grand Kazan Track" will require the best driving skills of the Team's drivers because is sometimes narrow and technical and some parts are very fast and winding.



PRESS RELEASE

Stage 1 results – Silk Way Rally 2017

1. Martin Kolomy (Tatra) 49m43s
2. Ales Loprais (Tatra) +51s
- 3. Ton Van Genugten (IVECO) +2m03s**
4. Siarhei Viazovich (Maz) +2m35s
- 5. Gerard De Rooy (IVECO) +4m01s**
- 6. Artur Ardavichus (IVECO) +4m06s**

Starting order for SS2 – 9th July

- 06.52h Kolomy (Tatra)
- 06.56h Loprais (Tatra)
- 06.58h Van Genugten (IVECO)**
- 07.06h Viazovich (Maz)
- 07.10h De Rooy (IVECO)**
- 07.12h Ardavichus (IVECO)**

IVECO

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The brand's wide range of products include the Daily, a vehicle that covers the 3 – 7.2 ton vehicle weight segment, the Eurocargo from 6 – 19 tons, the Trakker (dedicated to off-road missions) and the Stralis, both over 16 tons. In addition, the IVECO Astra brand builds off-road trucks, rigid and articulated dumpers as well as special vehicles.

IVECO employs close to 21,000 individuals globally. It manages production sites in 7 countries throughout Europe, Asia, Africa, Oceania and Latin America where it produces vehicles featuring the latest advanced technologies. 4,200 sales and service outlets in over 160 countries guarantee technical support wherever an IVECO vehicle is at work.

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