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OGIER HUNTING THE PODIUM IN SARDINIA

Press release n.7

Volkswagen Motorsport has run a testing week in Sardinia ahead of the World Rally Championship that will get underway in 7 days time. After Marcus Gronholm tested the Polo Wrc 2017 on tuesday, Latvala yesterday and Ogier today have been busy with testing duties on the current and new 2017 Wrc cars. "We mainly tested the new 2017 Wrc - said Sébastien Ogier – but we also tested the 2016 car, checking the setup ahead of the forthcoming rally. I have to say that starting first in this rally will be very penalizing, especially as the final leg is shorter than usual and making up for the lost time will be difficult". Since Paddon, Sordo, Latvala and Neuville will start from P4 to P8, aiming to the final victory will be quite tricky for the three times world champion. "The objective is to get on the podium - continued Ogier – and to strengthen the classification lead. I need to be realist and to try and finish ahead of Mikkelsen, who is the closest in the classification. The French driver had a thought on the son he is about to have, a topic that has been quite debated recently. "This did not change my approach to racing in terms of preparation and motivation. The baby is due after the rally – said the VW driver. But should the baby get birth earlier, I would not think about it twice and would immediately leave to hug him and my wife Andrea in such an important moment in our lives".

THE RACE. Edition 2016 of the Rally Italia Sardegna is scheduled for 9–12 June and will unfold in an itinerary embracing 324,60 km timed split in 19 stages. Alghero will host the headquarters again, as service park and the press room of the event. The shakedown will kick off the programme on Thursday June 9th in Olmedo at 8.00. In the evening, the 2 km long super stage "Ittiri Arena Show" will open the race at 18.00. On 10,11,12 June the gravel roads of Mount Acuto, Sassari and Nurra will stage the three legs of the race, that will reach its conclusion on Sunday June 12th in the Alghero city harbour, with the prize ceremony scheduled in the early afternoon.

