

Transsyberia Rally 2008 powered by Sony Ericsson: Storm front prevents special stage

**Cancellation of the fourth test due to strong rainfalls.
Gameiro/Figueiredo from Portugal lead in the overall standings.**

Tyumen, July 14th, 2008.

The fourth stage of the Transsyberia Rally 2008 powered by Sony Ericsson from Yekaterinburg to Tyumen – Siberia's oldest Russian city, located in the swampy area of the Tura – is affected by strong rainfalls. A fierce storm front submerged the entire area of the special stage in water. It was already known from last year that this test stage was difficult and demanding, even in good weather conditions. The rally organizers and the medical service drove into the special stage to assess, but realized after only a few hundred meters, that one couldn't get through the deep mud. The conclusion: The safety of the teams isn't ensured, since the stretch is also impassable for the emergency vehicles. The participants understood the decision and steered straight towards the destination Tyumen, 180 km away.

Aside from the experienced pilots, the "young and the restless", who'd been looking forward to maneuvering their cars through the forest and the swamp of the 21 km long demanding stretch, also showed understanding. Ryan Millen/Team USA, son of last year's winner: "If the emergency doctor can't get to the scene of the accident, I would have had a precarious feeling to start into the stage." Lars Kern/Team Germany 3 is looking forward to having a quiet end to the day and gather strength for the next days. During the first days of the rally, the 20 year old showed consistently good performances and is placed in an extraordinary and well-earned third place right now.

A lot of headway was made yesterday. About 1000 km from Kazan to Yekaterinburg. In contrast, the speedy special stage was limited to a mere 10 km. Armin Schwarz, Team Germany 1: "Today's special stage was only ten kilometers long, so naturally Andi and I took no risks at all. On this short distance we can win a few seconds at best, but we good lose the rally if worst comes to worst. The test was rather difficult: water crossings, jumps and uneven terrain." In spite of that, Schwarz is second fastest in the speed test, behind Kvashnin and Pavlovskiy from Team Russia 2, who are placed seventh in the overall standings behind Schwarz. Tognana/Team Italy comes in third, and is in overall fifth place.

"This way the Transsyberia is really fun. All in all, I like the rally a lot better than I did last year. The mixture of the various special stages is just right", so the Spaniard Carles Celma, who hasn't made it among the Top 10 yet.

Water ditches, mud and impassable terrain, that's the problems which the teams have to battle. The organization crew is having to deal with a whole other set of problems. Aside from technical problems on land, which prevented the transmission of yesterday's results, there are now also problems in the air which need to be solved. Both crew helicopters of the Transsyberia Rally have to stay on the ground due to technical defects and the passengers have to undertake a long haul with a lot of delay to the participating teams

Which team is in which position? What's the up-to-date course of the stages? You can follow each team of the Transsyberia Rally 2008 exactly via the Live Tracker at <http://www.transsyberia-rallye.de/en/route/live-trackingen/>.

Overall standings – as of July 14th, 2008:

1. Gameiro/Figueiredo	Team Portugal	Porsche	2:22:50 hrs.
2. Lavieille/Borsotta	Team France	Porsche	0:05:45 hrs. behind
3. Kern/van Kan	Team Germany 3	Porsche	0:06:38
4. Al Hajri/Trenker	Team Middle East	Porsche	0:10:25
5. Tognana/Cassina	Team Italy	Porsche	0:15:29
6. Schwarz/Schulz	Team Germany 1	Porsche	0:45:53
7. Levyatov/Talantsev	Team Russia 1	Porsche	1:19:30
8. Pfeil-Schneider/Steuer	Colombian Arrow	Porsche	1:20:24
9. Baier/Steinbring	Teambuctou	Toyota	1:36:53
10. Rowe/Tuthill	Team Great Britain	Toyota	2:01:10

You can find free up-to-date images for editorial use at
<http://www.transsyberia-rallye.de/en/presstart/pressphotos/>.

The Transsyberia Rally 2008 can be followed from the perspective of the participants in a daily photo blog at www.transsyberia-rallye.com. The teams are recording their personal impressions and experiences with the new water- and dirt resistant Sony Ericsson C702 Cyber-shot-cell phone.

For online media we offer daily news clips, as well downloadable images via FTP Server. We'll be happy to supply you with details upon request.

You'll find daily updated information, as well as downloadable text material of the Transsyberia Rally 2008 powered by Sony Ericsson at:
<http://www.transsyberia-rallye.de/de/presse/> (German)
<http://www.transsyberia-rallye.de/en/presstart/> (English)

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TV and Online

REBEL Media accompanies the teams for the entire rally with a TV production crew and records the rally events in HD quality. Daily news feeds, rough cuts and video clips are guaranteed, as well as up-to-date online reporting in text and photo.

We'll be happy to supply you with additional details upon request.