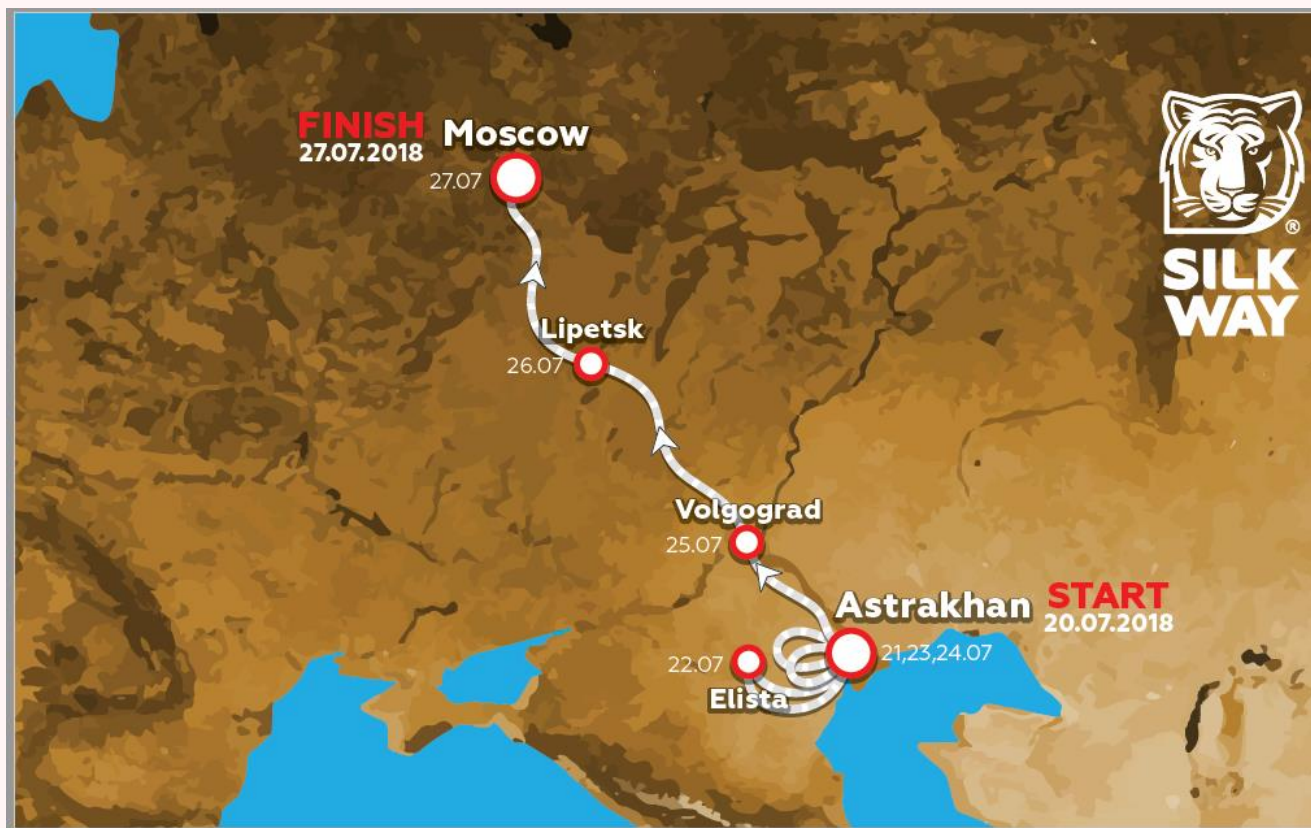




SILK WAY 2018 RALLY 丝绸之路拉力赛

PRESS RELEASE – CHANGE OF ROUTE

Paris, Moscow, Beijing, 15 June 2018



Included in this press release

- The organizing committee of the rally has decided to modify the format of the 2018 edition
- A new and attractive route in southern Russia
- A second Silk Way Rally organised in September in China

#RoadToMoscow





SILK WAY 2018 RALLY

丝绸之路拉力赛

#SilkWayRally2018

This 2018 edition of the Silk Way Rally was to take place in the People's Republic of China with five stages on the programme, then the participants and the entire organisation had to fly to Russia via an airlift to complete five other stages between Astrakhan and Moscow.

The runway that was supposed to accommodate the Antonov 124 cannot accommodate these large aircrafts with full capacity and the organizers of the Silk Way have just been informed that the runway renovation work will not be completed in time. This has the consequence of not being able to carry out, in the allotted time, the number of rotations necessary to transport all the rally participants (competitors and service).

Consequently, it was decided collectively between the countries involved in the organisation of the rally and the event partners to organise the Silk Way Rally 2018 in Russia from 20 to 27 July, and to organise a second rally in China in September, named "Silk Way China".

This new format has been presented to the teams already involved in the 2018 edition, and to date, all the participants initially scheduled to be at the start in Xi'an have agreed to take up a 100% Russian challenge.

It will therefore be an exceptional line-up both in the car category and in the truck category that will be presented during the podium ceremony in Astrakhan on the evening of 20 July 2018.

The next Silk Way Rally will take place over 7 stages for around 2500 km of special stages on an ideal off-road rally route. Competitors will thus be able to discover a part of the Kalmykia desert, on a route agreed by all participants of the 2013 edition.



7 LEGS IN RUSSIA :

2018 SILK WAY RALLY will start with one loop stage around Astrakhan, more precisely in the Takyr desert, one of the jewels of Kalmykia, a region visited nearly ten years ago during the first editions of the rally, where the third leg will take place too. Between these two loops, competitors will reach the city of chess in Elista on a marathon stage.

« Sandy and technical tracks await crews who will have to remain vigilant in terms of navigation, because of a multitude of crossings of tracks. Beware also of the dunes, surely not as majestic as in China, but the sand is much less favourable and is likely to prove frightening. The maximum speeds on this 2018 edition





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of the SILK WAY RALLY will certainly be reached on the big hyper fast tracks leading to Volgograd. On the eve of the finish in Moscow, the rally will move from sandy to dirt tracks, so that pilots can enjoy fast driving. Co-pilots should not fall asleep as navigation will be very demanding. And for those who doubt it, it will be enough to see the thickness of the road book of the last selective section which finish will be judged at less than 270 kilometres from Moscow, to understand that crews will not reach the final finish in the Russian capital free-wheel...»



2018 SILK WAY RALLY AGENDA:

- July 19th and 20th, 2018: Administrative checks and scrutineering in Astrakhan
 - July 20th, 2018: Start ceremony in Astrakhan
 - July 21st to 27th, 2018: 7 legs in Russia
- | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 21 July | Leg 1 : ASTRAKHAN/ASTRAKHAN |
| 22 July | Leg 2 : ASTRAKHAN/ELISTA (MARATHON) |
| 23 July | Leg 3 : ELISTA / ASTRAKHAN |
| 24 July | Leg 4 : ASTRAKHAN/ASTRAKHAN |
| 25 July | Leg 5 : ASTRAKHAN/VOLGOGRAD |
| 26 July | Leg 6 : VOLGOGRAD/LIPETSK |
| 27 July | Leg 7 : LIPETSK/MOSCOW |
- Prize Giving ceremony, Moscow



FAITHFULL PARTNERS





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GAZPROM, MAIN PARTNER OF THE RALLY

PJSC "Gazprom" is a global energetic company. Gazprom see their mission as the reliable, effective and well-balanced supply of consumers with natural gas, other kinds of energy resources and the products of their processing and are main partner of the Silk Way Rally since 2009.

TOYOTA have renewed their partnership with the Silk Way Rally for the third consecutive year as «THE RALLY OFFICIAL CAR»

Because of their unique design and capabilities, TOYOTA all-terrain vehicles have proved their extraordinary resistance on Russian, Kazakh and Chinese territories during the various reconnaissance trips and the rally. TOYOTA, which symbolizes technical and technological confidence, have been supplying Silk Way Rally official cars since 2016, to accompany the rally on its roads and wild tracks.

