



SILK WAY 2018 RALLY 丝绸之路拉力赛



Silk Way Rally 2018 (the 8th edition) has started!

Silk Way Rally 2018 has already taken off. The guests and citizens of Astrakhan attended the start ceremony of the 8th edition of the competition.

Rally Organisers installed the ceremonial arch on the square in front of Astrakhan State Opera and Ballet. Every competitor went through the arch to greet numerous fans.

The Governor of Astrakhan Region Mr.Zhilkin himself wished good luck to the racers, who are to take off to a week-long journey of three and half thousand kilometers. After his welcome speech, the Governor read the address words of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

‘Silk Way Rally is always a big and significant event for the motorsport fans from all over the world. By accepting the challenges and completing tough stages, the competitors from Russia and other countries perform in full their professional skills, their nature, friendly support, they show the maximum capacity of their vehicles. They give bright and sincere emotions to numerous fans, which follow closely the rally and support actively their favourite teams. I am sure that this year the competition will be interesting and exciting. I wish success to the sportsmen and the most unforgettable impressions to the spectators,’ – Mr.Zhilkin transferred the words of Russian state leader.

Silk Way Rally Director Vladimir Chagin thanked Astrakhan for their traditional warm welcome and emphasized the uniqueness of the upcoming race: ‘The route of the 8th Silk Way Rally is a combination of the world’s best cross-country tracks, with selective sections and twisting roads, mountains and stones, sands and dunes, plains and steppes – it actually is a modern classics, which makes our rally unpredictable for the world’s strongest pilots and teams.’

Silk Way Rally has global gas and energy holding Gazprom as Russian general partner and Chinese largest digital platform FBLife as a Chinese general partner.

The 8th edition of Silk Way Rally goes across Astrakhan, Volgograd, Lipetsk Regions and the Republic of Kalmykia. The total length of the route is three and half thousand kilometers, with minimum road sections possible – that was a target set to reccies team by Rally Organisers.





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Frédéric Lequien, the Head of SWR European Bureau: 'We are glad to welcome the representatives of 24 countries on the start of Silk Way Rally: 26 cars and 17 trucks. The race will be closely followed by more than 100 accredited Russian and international journalists and more than two and half billion people all over the world.'

The line-of up of Silk Way Rally 2018 was a nice surprise for the fans – the world's leading racers came to compete in either car or truck category.

First to go through the ceremonial arch was the current WRC champion Nasser Al-Attiya. The Qatar racer joined T1 competition on Toyota Hilux and he is one of the most promising competitors of car category. After Al-Attiya from Qatar World Rally Team his main rival officially joined the race – Yazeed Al-Rajhi, Nani Roma, Hurry Hunt and Mathieu Serradori. This driver from Suprotec Racing Team knows Astrakhan stages perfectly and that should help him to fight for the champion cup. Prototype category is also represented by three Russian drivers – Denis Krotov, Alexander Rusanov and Ivan Samarin.

A big delegation from Chinese Federation of Automobile and Motorcycle Sports came to Astrakhan to support Chinese pilots – Lu Binglong and Zi Yungang, which would compete on Silk Way on two Toyota Land Cruiser 200.

The best Russian quad racer Sergey Karyakin changed his racing category – starting from this year, he focuses on rallying on Maverick X3 buggy. The special attention was given to a woman crew with last year's T3 champions Mariia Oparina and Taisiia Shtaneva – they drive on the same car as they did last year.

T2 category has a unique line-up – out of six crews only one represents Russia, with Anastasiya Nifintova and Oleg Uperenko from Toyota Team Russia. The woman racer, which competes on SWR on a racing car for the first time, with her experienced co-pilot will fight for the win with the best international drivers. The frontrunner of this category is Akira Miura from Toyota.

Japanese vehicles are not only most promising in both categories, Toyota is also an official rally car of Silk Way Rally, driven by organisers and media journalists.

And of course, all the attendees had pleasure the welcome the heroes of KAMAZ-master Team: each and every blue truck got its ovation, including the ones of Eduard Nikolaev, Airat Mardeev, Dmitry Sotnikov, Anton Shibalov, Andrey Karginov and





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Sergey Kupriyanov: one bonneted truck, three brand-new cabovers, one KAMAZ of past generation and one gas truck – this unique vehicle was driven by Sergey Kupriyanov.

Now, when the start ceremony is over, the most interesting is still yet to come: seven stages, almost three and half thousand kilometers, challenging route, navigation traps, intense competition, finish ceremony at the Moscow Red Square and the precious champion cup. But only time will show, who is going to get it...

Rally Partners

Silk Way Rally continues its cooperation with Toyota – these off-road vehicles became official rally cars for the third time.

Reccies team created the route for 2018 on Toyota Hilux: production pickups with minimal modifications performed perfectly while going across deserts, dunes and mountains.

Now the reconnaissance is over and Toyota cars got a new mission: 25 Toyota Land Cruiser will carry rally organisers and media journalists throughout two weeks of the marathon.

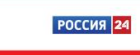
Rally Partners

Silk Way Rally is a unique platform for brand promotion on Eurasian key markets.

Gazpromneft filling station network is an official fuel supplier of Silk Way Rally. This year Gazpromneft provides competitors and organizers with OPTI and DIESEL fuel, which cleans the engine and diminishes fuel consumption.

The quality of both OPTI and DIESEL OPTI was confirmed by independent laboratories and during the cold weather testing in Siberia. Diesel Opti has also endured the extreme environment of Silk Way Rally 2017 – after the finish the thorough diagnostics showed that the fuel systems of all cars were just as good as new.

SIBUR – Russia's largest integrated gas processing and petrochemicals company SIBUR is Silk Way Rally supplier of innovation materials. Under its support several





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environmental activities will be carried out during the rally in order to promote a culture of environment protection.

Russian Highways (Avtodor) – The main goal of the Company is the create and further develop basic highway and road service system in Russia.

Russian Radio has been rally media partner for three years. The largest radio network with daily audience of more than 14 million people.

STREAM – Silk Way Rally announces the conclusion of partnership agreement with STREAM. STREAM TV Channel will assign Russian TV Production team to create TV content throughout the rally.

Gazprombank – SWR partner for three years. The bank ranks in top three by all key figures, including the amount of assets and own capital. Gazprombank is one of three banks with largest own capital in Central and East Europe.

Zagorsk Pipe Factory – has provided support for two years, one of the largest pipe supplier in Russian Federation.

Ufa Peton Holding – one of the most fast-growing engineering companies joined Silk Way Rally as an official partner. Peton Holding carries out complex projects in Russian oil and gas industries.

The safety of rally competitors is number one priority of race organizers. Soglasie Insurance Company is a reliable insurer of Silk Way Rally 2018, which ranks in top ten insurers in Russia. The insurance coverage provided by Company totals in more than 200 million Euro. The Company insured the civil liability of rally organizers during the preparation and conduction of the competition, third party liability of rally competitors as well as life and health of organizers and guests of the event.

