



SERVICE FLASH

Date: May 22nd 2009

Day: 1

Service: B

Flash N°: 2S

LATVALA – It's a great day for me, it was about 6 months since I ended a day of the World Championship in the lead. I have a good advantage, but 40" are not enough because Sébastien is better than me at managing a lead and making up time. We decided to push until the last stage to gain the most in this day. The Sardinian gravel roads suit Finnish drivers since they are fast and slippery. They are only narrower than ours. I would like to thank the many local and Italian fans who supported and encouraged me today.

HIRVONEN – I made a mistake in the last stage, I had to slow down to finish third behind Sébastien. Jari-Matti did a great race and ended up with an important lead taking advantage from the fact that starting behind roads are cleaner. I believe that his 40" lead is plenty but not yet enough to spell the end of the event.

LOEB – Everything ok, today we controlled the event, in order not to be first on the road tomorrow. Latvala decided to stay in front while we controlled. On the second loop everything went well, it is a nice race, although it's very hot. Tomorrow will be a great battle and I will be flat out from the beginning.

SORDO – I had a 3' leaving service to fix the sumpguard: we will try to make up time tomorrow. Our goal is a fourth place.

HENNING SOLBERG – I lost the bonnet of the Focus in stage five. It flew away because a hook came off.

PETTER SOLBERG – A positive day, an important fourth place. I am close to the podium and I am very happy with the car. Tomorrow will be a hard day, both for the stages and for the heat which will be demanding for both cars and drivers.

NOVIKOV – I improved my set-up by adjusting the suspensions and set good times. With cleaner roads everything was ok.

WILSON – In the afternoon everything was much better. Tomorrow it will be a tough race, we will be doing the Rally's most difficult stages.

ZANCHI – I am very happy, the car is Ok and I like the event very much.