

News release
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Hollywood's got a song for you. *I've paid my dues...*

Time after time, Petter Solberg has come close to repeating his 2003 world title. Today, he did it. Today, in Italy, Petter stands on top of the world for the second time in his career. In 2003, Petter was the best of the best in the FIA World Rally Championship. A decade and a bit on and there's nobody better in the FIA World Rallycross Championship. With two World RX rounds to go, nobody can beat Petter Solberg. Hollywood's done it again.

I've done my sentence. But committed no crime.

After a dramatic weekend and a thrilling final at Brescia's Franciacorta International Circuit, Petter crossed the line third. And first. World Champion. Again.

And bad mistakes – I've made a few.

Petter said: "Follow your dreams – that's my motto. My dream just came true. It's hard to see how it can get any better for me than this! You have to spend some time thinking about things before you can really take in what's happened. In the press conference, I have to say, I was a little bit speechless. World Champion again. It hadn't gone in then.

"If people only understood how much my team and I have worked for this. We have been like a family in the workshop through the winter and spring – those guys hardly ever even saw the daylight. Every since members of PSRX have been away from their family and loved ones. We have built absolutely everything ourselves and to compete against big manufacturer teams and, more importantly, to beat them time and again this year is unbelievable. Unbelievable.

"The only thing I'm sad about is that my fantastic family, my wife Pernilla and my incredible son Oliver couldn't be with me in Italy this weekend. They were in Norway and Oliver was winning another championship – this time the Norwegian Crosskart title. That's his third! Honestly, I can't keep up with that boy's success. Oliver and I just can't really believe it's true, this is really happening. I would so love them to be here and I know they would have wanted to be here too.

"Two years ago, I came to a new sport and now I am world champion.

"But, it's not just me. This world championship belongs to all of my team. We all worked so hard together, every one of us, from the Solberg family to the PSRX family. We are all world champions together. Unbelievable! And beautiful."

I've had my share of sand kicked in my face...

The weekend was far from straightforward for the PSRX team. An oil leak caused an engine problem yesterday, meaning the best Petter could do was ninth and 10th in the heats. Once again, the world-beating PSRX crew came to the rescue and sorted the Citroen DS3 Supercar. Sunday morning, Petter repaid them with first and second in the next two heats. Second in the semi-final put him on the second row for the last race of the day.

... but I've come through.

Petter knew third place would be enough. For a man who hadn't been beaten in a World RX final since July (World RX of Belgium) and has won the last three in succession, a podium didn't look to be too much to ask. A couple of corners in and Petter was sitting second. Sweet. Until lap three. A heavy landing damaged a damper. In the next left-hander, the DS3 sat down on its right-rear. Unflustered, Petter kept the hammer down and ignored the broken suspension. He drove like a hero. A Hollywood hero.

And I need to go on and on and on and on...

Solberg added: "I'm sure you guys know that I used to do some dancing. I'll be dancing tonight. Can you think of a song for the PSRX team to dance to? How about this one..."

We are the champions, my friends!

One thing we liked about Franciacorta:

Two words: world champion.

One thing we didn't like about Franciacorta:

The party finishing tonight. We don't like that, so we're going to party on...

Final result:

1 Timmy Hansen	4m55.473s
2 Richard Goransson	5m01.834s
3 Petter Solberg	5m26.883s
4 Timur Timerzyanov	5m53.155s
5 Johan Kristofferson	N/A
6 Andreas Bakkerud	N/A

Championship positions:

1 Petter Solberg	211pts
2 Toomas Heikkinen	161pts
3 Reinis Nitiss	158pts
4 Timmy Hansen	137pts
5 Andreas Bakkerud	135pts
6 Timur Timerzyanov	128pts

Next time out (World RX of Turkey, October 11-12)

We're going east. We'll be in Asia. Just. But we're going east to Asia as World Rallycross Champions! It's time for Turkey.

But in the meantime, if you want to know more about the FIA World Rally Champion:

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