

News release
26.04.15

Series lead for defending champion Solberg

Petter Solberg won three of six races to lead the FIA World Rallycross Championship standings after the opening round which finished in Portugal today (Sunday).

Norway's two-time FIA World Champion set a new lap record at the Montalegre circuit, despite suffering from sickness throughout the weekend. Solberg's progress through the semi-final and final was hindered by a centre differential problem which affected the handling of the PSRX machine.

Solberg said: "I am actually very, very pleased with the second place in this afternoon's final. As well as the centre diff trouble, the gearshift was also coming loose which made it quite tough in the semi-final and final. To be honest, I didn't really stand much of a chance to challenge Kristoffersson's victory. But anyway, it is an extremely good result in the first part of the title defence this season.

"This result gives us a chance to calm down a little bit, after such a busy pre-season. Of course, our test programme had been strong and we had good confidence in our team and the car, but we didn't know anything about the performance levels of our rivals. But now, at least we know that we are competitive. This start gives me a great feeling for the upcoming races. I hope that we can stay on top of the table at Hockenheim.

"It was a good start for the team also. Liam [Doran SDRX team-mate] had a lot of bad luck and I very feel sorry for him. I know he put a lot in to his season's preparation. He showed he has the speed and this is great. I am confident he will be back fighting in Germany next weekend."

The three-word weekend:

We're still first.

The big number:

10 – that's how many times Petter has been on the podium in 13 World RX races

Final result:

1 Johan Kristoffersson	4m34.242s
2 Petter Solberg	4m38.032s
3 Timmy Hansen	4m45.929s
4 Davy Jeanney	4m47.167s
5 Andreas Bakkerud	4m51.232s
6 P-G Andersson	N/A

Championship positions:

1 Johan Kristoffersson	27 pts
= Petter Solberg	27 pts
2 Timmy Hansen	24pts
3 Andreas Bakkerud	21pts
4 Davy Jeanney	16pts
= P-G Andersson	16pts

Next time out

What's better than driving a DS 3 Supercar once in Germany this season? Driving it twice, of course. And next week is the first of two trips to Deutschland. As this is being typed, the satnav in the PSRX wagon is being set: it's north-east and a hop into Spain, a skip across France and a jump into Germany. We're off to Hockenheim, just south-west of Heidelberg. Here's an interesting Heidelberg fact for you... the town has its own Quidditch team. Quidditch being the favoured sport at Hogwarts. Harry Potter? Film? OK, let's move on...

Finally, a question:

How many times did Petter change gear during the weekend? The answer's coming in Germany.

Want to know more about your FIA World Rallycross Champion?

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