**Hyundai Motorsport adjusts WRC driver line-up**

* Hyundai Motorsport has announced an adjustment to its crew line-up with Norwegian driver Andreas Mikkelsen joining the team from Rally de España next month
* Mikkelsen will take part in all three remaining rounds of the 2017 FIA World Rally Championship
* The decision has been made in an effort by Hyundai Motorsport to make up lost ground in the Manufacturers’ Championship.

Alzenau, Germany

September 5, 2017 – Hyundai Motorsport has made an adjustment to its crew line-up for the 2017 FIA World Rally Championship with Norwegian driver Andreas Mikkelsen joining the team for Rally de España, alongside Thierry Neuville and Dani Sordo.

Mikkelsen will compete in all three remaining rounds of the championship – in Spain, Wales GB and Australia – together with his co-driver Anders Jæger-Synnevaag.

All three of Hyundai Motorsport’s existing crews will remain under contract with the team but the specific driver line-up will differ in each of the remaining rounds of the season, details of which will be announced in due course.

Hyundai Motorsport has lost ground in the Manufacturers’ Championship in recent rallies, so the difficult decision to adjust crews has been made in an effort to close the gap to M-Sport in the final three rounds.

**Team Principal Michel Nandan said:** *“Reaching this decision was not easy, but we felt it was necessary to reaffirm ourselves in the championship battle. Discussions with Andreas have been ongoing since he was out of a drive but we had nothing to offer him, as our line-up was fixed. However, with us losing ground, we decided to re-evaluate the situation. We had an open discussion with all three of our crews, and informed them of our decision to make this adjustment. The precise line-up for Spain has been made, but we will confirm our crews for Wales and Australia in due course. For now, though, we welcome Andreas and Anders into Hyundai Motorsport and look forward to getting our 2017 championship back on track from Spain onwards.”*

**Andreas Mikkelsen said:** *“I am delighted to be joining Hyundai Motorsport and to be back in the WRC for the next three rallies. It is a great team with some very talented people, and the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC has proven itself to be a winning car on every surface. I had the chance to test on gravel earlier this year. I had a really positive feeling, which I am sure we will find again in these last three events of the season. My aim is to do all I can to help the team in the Manufacturers’ Championship. I have a great belief in them and the car, so I am super excited. Anders and I are ready for this and we hope it will be the start of something more long-term.”*

**Andreas Mikkelsen Factfile**

**Date of birth:** 22 June 1989 (Age 28)

**WRC debut:** Wales Rally GB 2006

**WRC starts:** 84 (up to Rallye Deutschland 2017)

**WRC wins:** 3 (Spain 2015, Poland and Australia 2016)

**WRC stage wins:** 74

**Best WRC Drivers’ Championship result:** 3rd (2014, 2015, 2016)

**Anders Jæger-Synnevaag Factfile**

**Date of birth:** 29 July 1989 (Age 28)

**WRC debut:** Rally de España 2014

**WRC starts:** 28 (up to Rallye Deutschland 2017)

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**About Hyundai Motorsport GmbH**

Established on 19 December 2012, Hyundai Motorsport GmbH is responsible for Hyundai’s global motorsport activities and primarily for its World Rally Championship programme.  Based in Alzenau on the outskirts of Frankfurt in Germany, the company embarked on its debut season in the FIA World Rally Championship in 2014 with a bespoke team of skilled staff and a brand new car, the Hyundai i20 WRC. The team made a strong impression in its first year claiming podium results in Mexico and Poland, as well as a memorable 1-2 in Germany. In its second season, the team was involved in a closely fought battle for second place in the Manufacturers’ Championship, adding more podiums and stage wins to its tally. For its third year in WRC, Hyundai Motorsport developed a brand new car, the New Generation i20 WRC. The team enjoyed its most successful season to date in 2016 with two victories (Argentina and Sardinia) and a total of 12 individual podium results, finishing second in the Manufacturers’ Championship. With a number of key technical regulation changes introduced for the 2017 season, Hyundai Motorsport developed a brand new car, the Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC, with which it is contesting its fourth season. The team registered its first win of 2017 at Tour de Corse before following that up with victories in Rally Argentina and Poland.

Further information about Hyundai Motorsport is available at: <http://motorsport.hyundai.com>

**About Hyundai Motor**

Established in 1967, Hyundai Motor Company is committed to becoming a lifetime partner in automobiles and beyond. The company leads the Hyundai Motor Group, an innovative business structure capable of circulating resources from molten iron to finished cars. Hyundai Motor has eight manufacturing bases and seven design & technical centres worldwide and in 2015 sold 4.96 million vehicles globally. With more than 110,000 employees worldwide, Hyundai Motor continues to enhance its product line-up with localised models and strives to strengthen its leadership in clean technology, starting with the world’s first mass-produced hydrogen-powered vehicle, Tucson Fuel Cell and IONIQ, the world’s first model with three electrified powertrains.

More information about Hyundai Motor and its products can be found at: <http://worldwide.hyundai.com> or <http://globalpr.hyundai.com/>

To download high-resolution photos for editorial use, full drivers’ profiles, as well as other useful press information about the team please refer to:

[http://press.motorsport.hyundai.com/home](http://hyundai.us13.list-manage1.com/track/click?u=9481556ff9be740a4ad0637a0&id=d33b9c76c8&e=8f0456885a)

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