

# ENERGYLANDIA RALLY TEAM

**Outstanding Stage by Marek Goczał and Maciej Marton. Energylandia Rally Team Crew Finishes Sunday in 5<sup>th</sup> Place Overall**



- **Marek Goczał and Maciej Marton finished the Dakar Rally Stage 1 in an excellent 5<sup>th</sup> place**
- **The Poles mixed it up with the world's elite and were the fastest crew in a Toyota Hilux**
- **Stage 1 was a loop around Yanbu with a 305-kilometre special stage**

The first stage of the 2026 Dakar Rally took the competitors on a loop around Yanbu and featured



a 305-kilometre special stage. Marek Goczał and Maciej Marton delivered a fantastic performance today. The Energylandia Rally Team crew secured an excellent 5<sup>th</sup> place overall. Along the way, the Poles beat a number of factory teams. What's more, they were the fastest crew in the Toyota Hilux T1+, finishing ahead of all the factory crews of the Japanese manufacturer. This marks a major success for the Polish, family-run, private team.

Eryk Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk, as well as Michał Goczał and Diego Ortega, lost a bit more time to the stage winners today. The organizer had emphasized that the first half of the stage would be extremely difficult due to the rocks and stones. Eryk and Szymon suffered two punctures there and had to drive cautiously due to the limited number of spare wheels. After the mid-stage pit stop, however, the Polish crew returned to a strong pace, and their time loss certainly does not rule out a fight for top positions in the coming days.

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*- The plan for today was to drive confidently and calmly, without taking any risks, and see where we would end up in the field. You can only imagine my surprise when I saw at the finish that we had set the 5<sup>th</sup> fastest time. No punctures, no incidents – apart from one really big jump, after which the microphone in my helmet stopped working. But there was a track there, so everyone had to jump it. I've never had as much fun driving as I do now in the Toyota. The plan for tomorrow is simple – to enjoy the driving just as much as today – summed up Marek Goczał, the best-placed Pole in Stage 1 of the 2026 Dakar Rally.*

*- The Dakar Rally welcomed us quite harshly. Around the 70-kilometre mark, we had two punctures almost at the same time. Until the pit stop around kilometer 180, we drove very cautiously because we had no more spare tyres left. After that, the right pace and rhythm came back and we managed to overtake several crews. The car is performing excellently, the time loss isn't big, and tomorrow we'll have a great starting position, so we'll be fighting – said Eryk Goczał after returning to the bivouac.*



*- I believe Eryk made a mature and wise decision – it's better to lose a few minutes but finish the stage and be able to continue the fight, rather than risk an early retirement. In the second part of the stage our pace was very good again. We can be satisfied with that, because we know we have the right speed here. It was a solid opening stage of the rally. There was a lot of work, interesting navigation, beautiful dunes and some overtaking. We had our moments, but that's rallying. The time loss isn't big and we can still fight at the front – said Eryk's co-driver, Szymon Gospodarczyk.*

On Monday, the competitors will travel from Yanbu to Al-Ula. This time, even more of a challenge awaits the crews, as the special stage will be as long as 400 kilometers. The deeper into the inland they go, the more mountainous the landscape will become. The organizer promises plenty of rhythm changes and a highly varied of the stage.