

ENERGYLANDIA RALLY TEAM

Eryk Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk the Top Polish Crew on Dakar Rally Stage 3. A Challenging Day for the Energylandia Rally Team



- Eryk Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk finished in 12th place today and made a significant jump in the overall standings of the Dakar Rally
- The loop around Al-Ula meant 421 kilometers of competition. The demanding route spared none of the Energylandia Rally Team crews

The third stage of the 2026 Dakar Rally consisted of a loop around Al-Ula, with a 421-kilometer special stage. The organizers prepared a mix of technical sections with sharp rocks and faster sandy parts, all combined with complicated navigation. Although the Energylandia Rally Team crews showed excellent pace, they did not avoid various adventures.

Eryk Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk finished the stage in 12th place and moved up to 13th position in the overall standings. Their pace was nothing less but impressive. As late as kilometer 300, Eryk and Szymon were running in 6th place, less than two minutes behind the leaders! Their fight for a stage podium was ended by two punctures. With no additional spare tires available, the Polish crew had to back off in the final part of the stage.



Michał Goczał and Diego Ortega finished in 18th place, while Marek Goczał and Maciej Marton completed the stage in 20th position.

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First, they struggled with technical problems with the car, and then the rigors of the competition proved too much for three of their tires. Fortunately, the last of the three punctures happened just 25 kilometers before the finish, allowing the Poles to complete the special stage. For the liaison section, they borrowed another wheel from their rivals, which enabled them to reach the bivouac and finish the day.

- These were the best 420 kilometers I have ever done in this car. I will remember this day for a long time. We had a great pace. We caught Michał and shortly after that the entire rally front runners. We



overtook Nasser Al-Attiyah, Sébastien Loeb, the factory Toyotas – we were one of the leading crews on the stage. Unfortunately, we also punctured two tires and, without any more spares, we had to slow down and lost some time at the end. Even so, I am very happy with the day. The car performed perfectly, we had a very strong pace, and Szymon did an excellent job. Tomorrow we start the marathon stage! – summarized Eryk Goczał.

- We finish the day in a solid 12th place and move up to 13th in the overall standings. The plan for today was simple – attack from the very beginning. The pace was really good, but punctures once again made things difficult. We faced very challenging navigation today. We entered the most complex section as the fourth or fifth crew, and the road was practically invisible. We had to drive slowly and be very careful not to get lost. I'm happy because we reached the finish and the result is quite good - said Szymon Gospodarczyk, Eryk's co-driver.

- Dakar is not sparing us – yesterday we had several moments and today there were plenty as well. At kilometer 80 our car stalled and we had no idea what was going on. Once we managed to solve the problem, we tried to push, but in heavy traffic it wasn't easy. While overtaking another crew, we



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punctured a tire. Soon after, we got a second puncture... and 25 kilometers before the finish, a third one. I was sure that was the end of our rally, but somehow we managed to reach the finish. We would like to sincerely thank the crew who lent us a spare wheel for the liaison to the bivouac. Without that, we would not have been able to complete this stage - concluded Marek Goczał.