

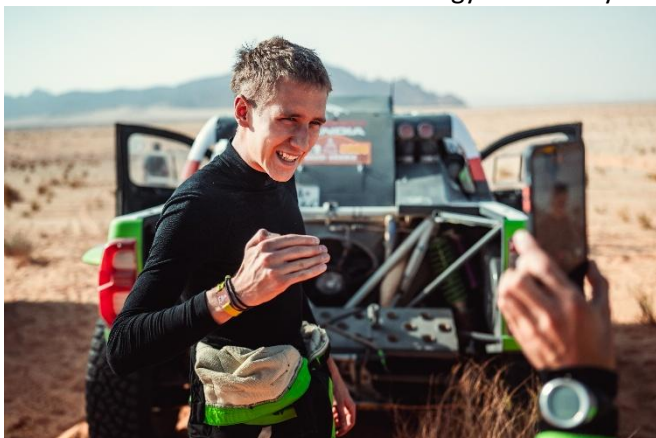
ENERGYLANDIA RALLY TEAM

A Navigation Battle in the Heart of the Desert. Eryk Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk Deliver a Strong Performance



- Energylandia Rally Team crews started the 2026 Dakar Rally Stage 5 from the front of the field and had to face extremely demanding navigation
- Eryk Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk were the fastest of the Polish crews today, finishing ahead of, among others, the Dakar Rally leaders and runners-up
- The family-run Polish team reached the finish in Hail with all crews classified

The fifth stage of the 2026 Dakar Rally was the second part of the marathon stage and led from a desert bivouac to Hail. As the Energylandia Rally Team crews achieved excellent results yesterday



and all finished inside the TOP 6, the Polish teams were among the first to hit the route today. Starting from the very front of the field means that competitors have no tracks to follow. They must rely entirely on themselves, deal with complex navigation and trust that their interpretation of the roadbook is correct. This represents a huge challenge for the co-drivers.

The fastest Energylandia Rally Team crew today were Eryk Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk. They were able to measure themselves against, among others, Henk Lategan and Nasser Al-Attiyah, who were driving directly ahead of them in very similar conditions. Eryk and Szymon completed Stage 5 ahead of them, and it is worth recalling that Henk and Nasser are currently the leader and runner-up of the Dakar Rally. This clearly shows how good a job Goczał and Gospodarczyk did today and how well they coped with the demanding

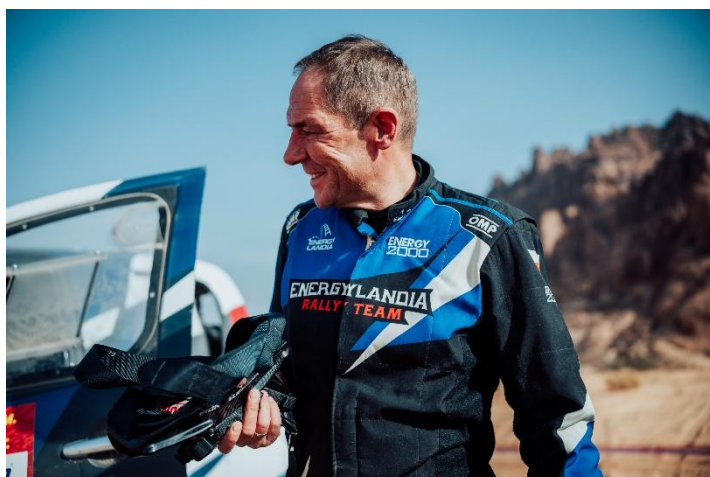
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navigation while running as one of the first crews on the route. Marek Goczał with Maciej Marton and Michał Goczał with Diego Ortega reached the finish with slightly larger time losses.

- It was a very tough stage. At one point we were the third crew on the route – only Henk Lategan and Nasser Al-Attiyah were ahead of us. Their tracks were practically invisible. On the rocky sections we slowed down a lot – it was very easy to damage a tyre there, but we managed to avoid any punctures. Today we could compare ourselves with Nasser and Henk, as we were driving in similar conditions, and at the finish we have a better time, so I'm very happy with that - said Eryk Goczał at the finish of the Dakar Rally Stage 5.



- In the morning we packed up our camp, had an espresso and set off. Navigation was extremely difficult today. Every 200-300 metres there were sharp changes of direction, and at the speeds we are driving it is very hard to do so precisely. Eryk worked closely with me and helped me a lot with this task, so we managed to get through it. I'm very happy about that. Crews running behind us with visible tracks had a slightly easier job, but we don't think about that. We did a great job today and finish this stage with a sense of job well done - summed up Eryk's co-driver, Szymon Gospodarczyk.



- The beginning of this stage was good for us. We were closing in on Lategan and Al-Attiyah, but later, in the dust, we lost the route and it knocked us out of our rhythm a bit. From a navigation point of view, it was a very difficult stage. Later on, we had another moment of hesitation, as we were convinced we had lost the route again. It turned out we were actually driving correctly, but the tracks of other crews we could see were

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leading in the wrong direction. That moment of hesitation cost us quite a lot of time once again. Of course, from our position on the stage, starting as the third crew, it is impossible to fight for the very top positions. We are happy to be at the finish, and that is the most important thing – the Dakar is not over yet, so from tomorrow we will continue fighting - concluded Marek Goczał.

On Friday, the competitors will face the longest stage of the 2026 Dakar Rally, running from Hail to Riyadh. In total, the crews will cover as much as 920 kilometres, including 331 kilometres of special stage. Reaching Riyadh will mark the reward of completing the first week of the rally and enjoying the rest day scheduled for Saturday.