

ENERGYLANDIA RALLY TEAM

Eryk Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk Advance into Dakar Rally Top Ten Ahead of Rest Day



- **Stage 6 leading from Hail to Riyadh brought the first 2026 Dakar Rally week to an end**
- **Eryk Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk were the fastest Polish crew today. The Energylandia Rally Team duo moved into the overall top ten**
- **A well-deserved rest day awaits the competitors on Saturday**

Just before the rest day, the organizers prepared the longest stage of this year's Dakar Rally. The route from Hail to Riyadh consisted of as much as 589 kilometers of liaison sections and 326 kilometers of special stage. Sand and dunes dominated the terrain, making the pace significantly faster than in previous days. The best result among the Energylandia Rally Team crews was achieved by Eryk Goczał and Szymon Gospodarczyk. The Polish duo finished the stage in 10th place and advanced to 9th position in the overall standings.



Michał Goczał and Diego Ortega reached the finish line with the 17th fastest stage time, while Marek Goczał and Maciej Marton secured 19th place. Both crews showed strong pace throughout the day and managed to overtake many rivals. Most importantly, all crews of the Polish family-run team completed the first week of the Dakar Rally and remain in contention for high overall positions.

- We've reached the finish line of the Dakar Rally week one. Finally, it was a day without big rocks. We could focus on fast driving and really enjoyed

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it. On the dunes, Nasser Al-Attiyah caught up with us. I have no idea how he does it, but he's incredibly fast. For several dozen kilometers we tried to keep his pace – our car was going crazy, everything was overheating, and I was giving it absolutely everything... eventually we had to back off, because our beast wouldn't have survived it. It's no surprise that he won this stage. We're happy with our result. We've moved into the top ten and I think we still have something in reserve for the second week of the rally – said Eryk Goczał at the stage finish.



- Today there was a lot of sand and dunes, so the characteristic of the rally is changing. We completed the stage according to plan. Eryk handled the dunes brilliantly. Sometimes I feel like he's some kind of RoboCop. He has enormous determination and power – it's great to watch how he copes with the pressure and the difficulties of this rally. Tomorrow we have a rest day, so there will be some time to recover and prepare for the second week – summed up Szymon Gospodarczyk, Eryk's co-driver.

- Every day of this week has been demanding, and today was no different, although the characteristic of the stage clearly changed. There were no rocks today, but instead sand was everywhere. I'm not sure if we set the right tyre pressure, but the most important thing is that we made it to the finish. That's always a great feeling. After the rest day, we'll see what else we can fight for in this rally – explained Michał Goczał.

- The first week of the rally brought us both beautiful and difficult moments. Today we wanted to make up some time, but we had issues with the shock absorbers. Wherever possible, we tried to push, but those problems limited us. We started as the 30th crew, and the route was already heavily rutted. Still, we enjoyed the day, and the Dakar is only halfway through, so everything is still ahead of us – concluded Marek Goczał.

Saturday marks a well-deserved rest day for the Dakar Rally participants. The drivers and co-drivers will focus mainly on rest and recovery, while the mechanics face an intense day of work preparing the vehicles for the second week of competition.