

FxPro RALLY

CYPRUS



FxPro Cyprus Rally 2009 Newsletter

EDITION 1

Dear Rally Fans,

Cyprus returns to the FIA World Rally Championship calendar this year and with the FxPro Cyprus Rally 2009 just weeks away, the excitement is building as final plans are put in place. The WRC roadshow arrives in Cyprus after two cold rounds – Ireland and Norway – so competitors and fans will be hoping for a dose of Cyprus sunshine.



FxPro Announced As Title Sponsor of 2009 FIA Cyprus Rally

FxPro, one of the leading international online currency trading companies, is engaging with the high-octane world of motorsport by sponsoring all three upcoming WRC Cyprus Rally events.

Round 3 of the 2009 FIA World Rally Championship, the FxPro Cyprus Rally promises to be one of the season's most exciting motorsport events as the world's top drivers return to the eastern Mediterranean to pit themselves against the challenging special stages of the Troodos mountains... and each other!

The first WRC Cyprus Rally since 2006, this year also marks the first time that a title sponsor has backed the event, which means more money for the organisers to invest, and increased exposure for FxPro, which associates itself with a high-profile round of the WRC that will be followed all over the world.

The 2009 FxPro Cyprus Rally is guaranteed to attract attention. Not only does it promise to be the most challenging event in the 2009 WRC calendar, it's also introducing a WRC first – a mixed surface event. All Day 1 stages will be competed on tarmac, while Days 2 and 3 will feature the sort of challenging gravel stages for which the event is renowned.

Speaking about the company's decision to back the event, Managing Director of FxPro Panayiotis Xydias said: "The Cyprus Rally is a major event that combines excitement and innovation on a global scale. These are qualities that we, at FxPro, identify with so it was a simple decision to join forces and raise the profiles of both the Cyprus Rally and the great services that FxPro provides. We see the Cyprus Rally as a great vehicle for carrying the FxPro brand across the globe and we are committed long-term, as we will be backing three consecutive WRC Cyprus Rally events."

Cyprus Rally Clerk of the Course Christos Kyriakides welcomed the sponsorship deal with FxPro, saying: "Our rally has consistently been one of the most widely watched WRC events around the world so this is a great opportunity for FxPro to share in that exposure. Plus, it means that the organisers have the funding available to ensure that this event is bigger and better than ever before. We're already expecting this to be the most successful Cyprus Rally ever, and it's fitting that – as the event title sponsor – FxPro enjoy the success with us."

"While the event organisers have the expertise to craft an outstanding rally, in this competitive age you need major financial backing to ensure an event on the scale of the FxPro Cyprus Rally succeeds to its full potential. This is why we are all grateful to those who sponsor and support the event, including FxPro, the Cyprus Tourism Organisation, and the Cyprus government, who help us make our Rally such a success."

Greek Singing Star Sakis Rouvas To Open FxPro Cyprus Rally

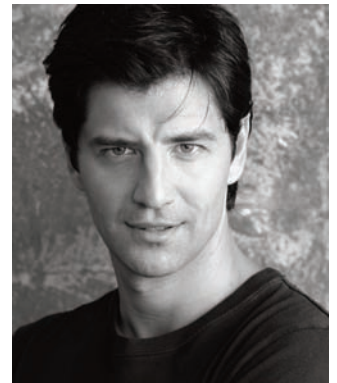
Top Greek singer Sakis Rouvas will be in Cyprus to ensure that the 2009 FxPro Cyprus Rally gets off to a flying start.

With the FxPro Cyprus Rally set to be the year's most significant sporting event in the region, it's fitting that the Ceremonial Start includes a performance from the biggest star in Cyprus and Greece today.

In the last few years, Rouvas' career has gone from strength to strength, and includes a string of hit albums and a top-3 Eurovision performance. Rouvas hosted the hugely successful TV show The X-Factor in Greece recently, and, along with a role in the upcoming US movie Duress, will once again be representing Greece at the 2009 Eurovision Song Contest in Moscow in May.

With Rouvas' huge across-the-board popularity, he's a natural choice for a major Ceremonial Start event that marks the return of the FxPro Cyprus Rally to the FIA World Rally Championship.

For fans of Rouvas and world rallying, this will be the event of the year. The combined event will take place at the Spyros Kyprianou stadium in Limassol and a number of ticket options are on sale - see the end of this newsletter for details on how to purchase tickets.



2009



FxPro RALLY CYPRUS



rally news rally news rally news

World Rally Champion Loeb Aims for Win No. 50 in Cyprus

Rally fans are keen to see if defending World Rally Champion Sebastien Loeb can score his 50th win at the FxPro Cyprus Rally 2009.

After steering his Citroen C4 to back-to-back wins in the first two rounds of the 2009 FIA World Rally Championship in Ireland and Norway, the odds appear to be in Loeb's favour. And the fact that he took victory in the last three Cyprus WRC events just reinforces the likelihood that Loeb – already the most successful WRC driver of all time – will make it a half-century in Cyprus.

The decision to make the FxPro Cyprus Rally 2009 a mixed surface event adds new spice to the Cyprus challenge, but it is unlikely to cause any significant problems to a driver who has proven his mettle on all surfaces. As ever, Loeb will tackle the event with the WRC's most successful co-driver Daniel Elena at his side.

Born in Alsace on the Franco-German border on February 26th 1974, Loeb was a talented gymnast from an early age. At the age of 21, he decided to enter the world of rallying and soon made a name for himself in the Juniors, before moving on to the WRC where he has enjoyed unparalleled success – winning the last five consecutive World Rally Championships!

But while the odds favour Loeb making Cyprus his 50th win, his competition won't make it easy. Also tackling the challenging special stages of the Troodos mountains will be his talented teammate Dani Sordo – also piloting a Citroen C4, while Ford's Mikko Hirvonen, who currently sits 2nd on the Championship leaderboard, will be looking to close the points gap. Hirvonen enters the Cyprus event 6 points behind Loeb.

Other drivers lining up to try to break Loeb's run of victories include Hirvonen's Ford teammate Jari-Matti Latvala, Stobart's Matthew Wilson and Henning Solberg, and crowd favourite Petter Solberg. Plus, there's added excitement as the FxPro Cyprus Rally counts towards both the J-WRC and P-WRC championships this year.

The FxPro Cyprus Rally 2009 will be held from the 12th to the 15th March and will be based around the coastal resort of Germasogeia, near Limassol. Cyprus will also host a round of the FIA Middle East Rally Championship – the popular Troodos Rally – later in the year.

For updated information about the FxPro Cyprus Rally 2009, log on to the official website at

www.cyprusrally.com.cy

For more about the financial services offered by FxPro, visit

www.FxPro.com

For further information about the Ceremonial Start and exclusive Sakis Rouvas performance, call 77772939 or visit

www.salecy.com

Pirelli Tyres Hold Up Well In Testing Ahead Of Cyprus Event

Tyre testing ahead of the FxPro Cyprus Rally has shown that Pirelli's WRC gravel tyre is also up to tackling asphalt stages.

Concerns were raised about tyre suitability after it was announced that, for cost reasons, competitors would tackle all stages – asphalt and gravel – on Pirelli's hard compound Scorpion gravel tyre.

But Pirelli's tyre manager, Mario Isola is happy with the results after tests with both the Citroen and Ford teams, saying: "Obviously it's not the best situation for us because we develop tyres for specific surfaces, but this is a compromise in order to help the teams and manufacturers not to transport a lot of spare parts, and in these special circumstances we are happy with the results."

As an added safety measure, Isola revealed that drivers will be offered additional tyres after the first and longest stage of each loop on Day 1.

"We agreed with the FIA to give them four extra tyres for the first day. In the refuel zone after the first 30km stage we will send two tyres for each car. They are not obliged to change them, but if they want they can give us two used tyres and we give them two new ones. This way, if they carry two spares, they can start the second stage with four new tyres."

FxPro Cyprus Rally Pre-Event Press Conference Takes Place In Nicosia

Member of Parliament Mr. Marinos Sizopoulos welcomed the media, representatives of the business sector and government officials to a pre-event press conference for the FxPro Cyprus Rally 2009 in Nicosia on Thursday 26th February.

Joining Mr Sizopoulos at the well-attended event were Clerk of the Course Takis Kyriakides, Chairman of the board of directors of the CTO Mr Panos Englezos, and representatives from the event title sponsor FxPro, and from CYTA.

Marinos Sizopoulos spoke about the positive international coverage that Cyprus will receive as a result of the event, with its many benefits for the local Cyprus tourism industry.

FxPro representative Louiza Protopapa explained how the international coverage the FxPro Cyprus Rally 2009 will receive will strengthen the company's global position and intensify its worldwide appeal.

Clerk of the Course Takis Kyriakides gave a brief rundown on the drivers who will be tackling the event.

