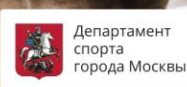




SILK WAY 2022 RALLY

丝绸之路拉力赛



LEG 10. Lipetsk – Moscow

The SS10 distance was one of the shortest for the entire rally – there were only 118 kilometers. However, it was here that the fate of victory in one of the main rally standings was sealed – and it was decided very dramatically.

Malikov wins the special stage, Krotov wins the rally

Vladimir Vasilyev has been going to this victory for five years and in the sixth year he was closer to his cherished goal than ever – he had to win back two and a half minutes from Denis Krotov at 118 kilometers. It was quite possible, but in the end, the Vasilyev's car did not even reach the 49-kilometer WP – his BMW X5 was found off the track with a torn off wheel: a rollover.

The place where the crew of Vladimir Vasilyev and Alexey Kuzmich went off the track is very difficult. There's a blind sharp right corner onto the jump. Vasilyev pushed hard and, of course, took risks. The car skidded on slippery grass and went off the track, as a result of which one of the wheels was torn off. The crew was not injured, but there was no question of continuing the struggle.

In this situation the crew of Denis Krotov and Konstantin Zhiltsov could afford to slow down and not take risks, and they did it. At the finish of the final special stage the rally leader was only the third, but that was enough for him to secure a convincing victory – the first victory of such a level in his cross-country rally career.



The best time at Saturday's special stage was set by Vladislav Malikov, the Open standings competitor. Sergey Karyakin, competing in the SSV category, was the second at the finish line. Nikita Mazepin, Armen Puzyan, Anastasia Nifontova, Alexander Rusanov, Evgeny Sukhovenko, Dmitry Mordkovich and Kirill Chernenkov also took places in the top ten at the final special stage finish.

Double victory for Snag Racing

Sergey Karyakin and Nikita Mazepin made a double at the final special stage of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally. The drivers playing for the Snag Racing team pushed hard for a reason – if no one claimed the first place that was occupied by Mazepin, who made his debut in the race, then Karjakin could still compete for the second position overall, but he needed to win back 5 minutes and 26 seconds from Armen Puzyan.

Karyakin's attack was almost crowned with success – according to preliminary calculations, he lacked thirty-eight seconds to get ahead of Armen Puzyan in the fight for third place. But the Nakusi Racing Team driver also upped the pace and finished the special stage on the third place.

Great Sotnikov

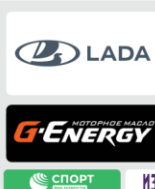
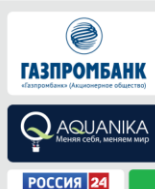
Dmitry Sotnikov finished the tenth special stage only with the third result in six and a half minutes from Andrey Karginov, who achieved the best score. However, nothing threatened his leadership, so it remains only to congratulate the owner of a unique achievement – the victory at the Silk Way Rally this year is the fourth for Sotnikov. And this is an absolute record in the rally history.

KAMAZ-master teammates supported Sotnikov's initiative – Andrey Karginov became the best at the final special stage, Eduard Nikolaev set the second time, and Sergey Kupriyanov – the fourth.

Alexey Khlebov from the GAZ Raid Sport team got the fifth result, and Sergey Vyazovich was the sixth. The MAZ-SPORTauto factory team driver, left alone after yesterday's retirement of Alexey Vishnevsky, punctured a wheel for the umpteenth time and lost time to replace it.

Battle behind Voronov

Dmitry Voronov finished SS10 with a fourth consecutive victory. Thus, from the second half of the rally, LADA NIVA Legend proved to be both fast and reliable. It is a pity that in the beginning of the rally the crew of the factory team received a huge fine.



MORE THAN RALLY, ABSOLUTE ADVENTURE!

However, the main attention was focused on the duel of two Turkmen crews fighting for victory in the T2 standings – will Shamyrat Gurbanov be able to catch up with Merdan Toylyev or not?

However, Toylyev did not wait for the count, but pushed hard ahead of his pursuer! As a result, it was Merdan Toylyev who won the 2022 Silk Way Rally.

Pavlenko opens the scoring

Although, it was a victory at the special stage, but it's necessary to start. From the very beginning of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally Oleg Pavlenko could not win the special stage, and today it finally happened.

However, there is an explanation for this – the race leader Alexey Naumov was far ahead of his rivals and could afford to slow down: he set only the fourth time. Evgeny Tikhonov and Alexander Gatiyatulin achieved the second and third scores.

Award ceremony

The Ceremonial Finish of the Silk Way Rally will take place on July 16, 2022 at the Luzhniki Olympic Complex.



↘ MORE THAN RALLY, ABSOLUTE ADVENTURE!

GAZPROM PJSC, a global energy company, has been with Project for many years.

Silk Way Rally have been choosing the **Gazprom Neft filling station** network as the rally's fuel partner for several years in a row for its high quality indicators. Today this cooperation has grown into a whole program that operates throughout the year, and not just during the days of the rally. These are large online, tourism and social projects that start along with the rally and continue to operate after the finish of the race. Each edition is a new stage and a new project that complements all previous ones.

Traditionally, from year to year, the Gazprom Neft filling station network helps organizers and competitors to solve key technical, sports and domestic issues. Technical support for the teams is provided by G-Energy – Gazprom Neft's high-tech brand of lubricants. All bivouacs of the Silk Way Rally will have a **G-Energy** mobile laboratory, whose technical experts will help team mechanics monitor the condition of all vehicles during the rally. The data obtained in the races allows specialists to improve products and form the basis of new recipes.

We also highly appreciate the contribution of **Gazprombank**, our financial partner and one of the largest universal banks in Russia, to the development of rallying and motorsport in general.

Particular thanks to our media partners. This year **MATCH TV, Russia 24, NTV, 360** federal TV channels continue their cooperation with rally; an information support is also provided by the **Izvestia** multimedia information center and IZ.RU TV channels 5TV and Ren TV. We are pleased to note that our long-term cooperation with the **Rossiia Segodnya** media group continues. For the first time **Tricolor**, the multiplatform operator of the digital environment, and **RUTUBE** became the information partners.

The support of automotive partners is especially important for Silk Way Rally, these are the automobile plants **Kamaz, AvtoVAZ, GAZ, URAL** and **Chery**. We would like to thank our technical partners – **Greenworks, Yamaguchi, Soglasie Strakhovanie** Insurance Company, as well as **Aquanika**, the official partner for water and innovative drinks, and **Tassay**, a brand of premium quality natural drinking water from a deep source in an ecologically clean region of the foothills of the Western Tien Shan in Kazakhstan.



MORE THAN RALLY, ABSOLUTE ADVENTURE!