



Amarok's Confidently Complete the Dakar Rally

- The 35 Amarok's provided by Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles all completed the gruelling long-distance endurance test of this legendary cross-country rally
- 50°C heat, mountain passes at altitudes of more than 4,700 metres and the Atacama Desert all presented no problems for the Amarok

The racing pilots competing in the Dakar Rally have crossed the finishing line in Buenos Aires. Volkswagen drove home a brilliant triple victory in the world's toughest rally. Alongside the successful Race Touareg's, the escort teams travelling in the Volkswagen Amarok have also returned to Argentina's capital.

The Dakar race is said to be the toughest rally of them all. Of the 140 race cars, the nearly 200 motorcycles and quads and the 50 odd race trucks in the starting line-up in Buenos Aires on January 1st, only around half actually made it to the finishing line. Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles undeniably did much better, with all 35 of its Pickups completing all 14 legs of the race.



“The event allowed the Amarok to give a clear demonstration of its qualities: fuel economy, functionality and robustness,” said Dr Wolfgang Schreiber, the member of the Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles Brand Board of Management in charge of development. “The paces this vehicle was put through ahead of the event in eight million kilometres of testing were obviously a good preparation for the world’s most gruelling rally,” says Schreiber.

Having completed the distance of more than 9,000 kilometres, Volkswagen’s 35 Amarok escort and organisation vehicles underwent a final round of inspection. The verdict of the technical crew: The Volkswagen Amarok had no problem mastering the demanding challenges it was subjected to during its travels from the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires, across the continent to Chile’s Pacific coast and back. The Amarok motored on undeterred by the 50°C heat of Argentina’s Fiambala, by the San Francisco Pass across the Andes in Chile at an altitude of more than 4,700 metres or by the taxing terrain of the Atacama, the driest desert on the planet.



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Grant Doull, Manager of Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles New Zealand is excited about the local implications of this significant public test for the Amarok: “The extensive testing the Amarok has undergone prior to the Dakar Rally along with its obvious capabilities during the arduous event certainly highlight to the general public what a robust and heavy duty Ute the Amarok truly is. The suitability to New Zealand roads and rural landscape seem to be an ideal match for the Volkswagen Amarok”.

The Amarok is set to launch in New Zealand later this year, with specification and pricing to be outlined closer to the time.

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For further information or high-res images, please contact:

Jake Tobin
Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles, Brand & Product Manager
European Motor Distributors Ltd
Phone: (09) 360 2911
Email: jtobin@volkswagen.co.nz
Web: www.volkswagen.co.nz