



Volkswagen Amarok supports the Dakar Rally 2010

A true test of durability for the Volkswagen Amarok

- 35 Amaroks to be used in the world's toughest rally
- Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles is the "Official Supplier" to the A.S.O.



It is durable, robust and can tackle any road, no matter how tricky: the Volkswagen Amarok will have to prove those claims from January 2010 during the world's toughest rally. Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles is the "Official Supplier" to the Dakar Rally and a partner to the organiser, the Amaury Sport Organisation (A.S.O.). The new Amarok from Volkswagen will be the Support Vehicle for the rally. The organiser is to use 20 Amarok, with a further 15 to be used as press and shuttle vehicles.

From 1st to 17th January 2010, the Dakar Rally will see a number of teams including five from Volkswagen Motorsport, driving Race Touaregs, travelling 9,000km through Argentina and Chile. The rally starts and finishes in Buenos Aires. The Amarok will undergo an endurance test during the Dakar Rally, where it will have to handle all the challenges of the demanding stages: as the organiser's vehicle to scrutinize the rally stages, as a press vehicle and as a shuttle for the Volkswagen Motorsport team.



Race Touareg

Four of the Volkswagen Amarok from the A.S.O. fleet will get additional off-road conversions for the trip, and four Panamericana Multivans will also be used. "We are pleased to be able to use the Volkswagen Amarok as our Support Vehicle, because the Dakar Rally demands the highest levels of technical perfection, reliability and endurance – from our Race Touareg as much as from the support vehicles. The Amarok is exactly the right vehicle for our team", explains Kris Nissen, Volkswagen Motorsport Director.

"The Volkswagen Amarok is Volkswagen's answer to the Ute and on the Dakar Rally – one of the last great adventures for mankind – it will have the chance to show what it's made of and to demonstrate its flexibility and durability", adds Stephan Schaller, CEO of Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles. "Moreover, the Volkswagen Amarok is built in Argentina and South America is one of the most important markets for this product, so taking part in the 2010 Dakar Rally was an absolute must for us", stresses Schaller.



Amarok

The Volkswagen Amarok will be seen at the Dakar Rally in Argentina for the first time and will then be launched initially in South American markets, followed by Europe. Launch for the New Zealand and Australian markets will be late 2010.

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Grant Doull, Manager of Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles NZ, is excited about the participation of the Amarok at the Dakar Rally. “There is no greater off-road endurance test than the Dakar Rally. The Amarok will set out to forge new tracks in its duties as the rally’s reconnaissance vehicle before it looks to set a new benchmark in the Ute sector as market launch approaches”.

He added “Proving its prowess off-road in settings such as those it will experience on the Dakar rally should go a long way in establishing the Amarok’s true credentials as a Ute that will provide superior performance and durability for typical applications in the New Zealand market.”

Please contact your local authorised Volkswagen dealer for further Amarok information or visit www.volkswagen.co.nz

Final Amarok New Zealand specifications will be confirmed in 2010.

Ends

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