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Hillegom, June 25th 2019

NEW RENAULT RACE TRUCK FOR FIREMEN DAKARTEAM



Firemen Dakarteam during 2019 rally in Peru

The Firemen Dakarteam will start the Dakar Rally in January 2020 with a (for them) new racing truck. To continue their upward trend after three rallies, it is time for the next step; an even better truck.

A few weeks after the finish of the Dakar 2019, we came in contact with racing truck manufacturer MKR in the Czech Republic. Not long afterwards we visited the factory in the Czech Republic. MKR already produces (Renault) racing trucks for top international professional teams (including Riwald and the Mammoet Rally team).

“A different surface means a different configuration of the truck. To make the current truck lighter, stronger, more modern and stiffer for the 2020 rally, meant so much work has to be done that we might as well start thinking about another / new(er) truck”, says Richard de Groot.

Together with Mario Kress (director and owner of MKR Group Europe) we had several good conversations.

“The Firemen Dakarteam is a very serious team that wants to continue to grow in the positive Dakar spirit. Not only for himself, but also for their partners, sponsors and the organizing countries ”- says Kress.

In the end, the Firemen Dakarteam and MKR agreed that the Firemen Dakarteam can use the truck of Janus van Kasteren from the previous rally for the 2020 rally.

“A considerable step forward for the 2020 Dakar Rally. To be honest, that is a dream I never thought would come true. In one fell swoop, we, as a Renault factory team, ended up in the Major League of the Dakar Rally”- says De Groot.

The truck already has two day victories to its name and this fits seamlessly with the refined target for 2020 and perhaps the following years, *“... and that really is driving towards the top 10 ...”* - says De Groot. It will certainly not depend on the material.

The current truck has had the necessary mileage and incidents. Yet the team is so attached to the truck that it will retain a place within the team. Think of marketing or other rally purposes.

Another reason for the new truck is that the entire Dakar Rally circus will be moving from South America to Saudi Arabia next year.

Saudi Arabia is six times the size of France and consists for the most part of desert. Yet the dunes are considerably less high than the South American ones. In addition, it has more WRC-like (World Rally Championship) trails. These are paths that consist of hard sand with gravel, small pebbles or boulders. This means the truck has to be assembled differently.



Firemen Dakarteam through fesh-fesh during 2019 rally in Peru



Firemen Dakarteam finishes Dakar Rally 2019 in Peru

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