HERO MOTOSPORTS TEAM RALLY KICK-OFF THEIR ABU DHABI DESERT CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN

MIKE DOCHERTY MAKES A WINNING START IN PROLOGUE

DAVID BRACERAS MAKES HIS DEBUT FOR HERO MOTOSPORTS TEAM RALLY

Al Ain, UAE, 22 Nov 2026

Hero MotoSports Team Rally kicked off their campaign for the 35th edition of the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge, the grand finale of the 2026 FIM World Rally-Raid Championship (W2RC). The team enters one of the world's most iconic cross-country rallies with an exciting two-rider line-up featuring the "home Hero" Mike Docherty and the Spanish talent David Braceras, who made his debut for the Hero MotoSports Team Rally today.





Mike, the defending Rally 2 winner of Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge, seemed to have picked-off his campaign right from where he left off last time, which is, with a win in the Prologue stage today. While David also successfully tackled the sandy tracks and some dunes, finishing 6th in the Rally 2 category and 9th in the overall rankings on his debut run with Hero MotoSports Team Rally.

Over the course of the next five days the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge will take the competitors on an epic journey from the eastern oasis city across the Al Dhafra region to the shores of the Arabian Gulf at Al Sila' and back, covering 1,931 kilometres, including 1,326 kilometres of timed competitive special stages. Competitors will face a demanding mix of towering dunes, fast desert tracks, rocky landscapes, and a gruelling Marathon stage in coastal Al Sila' that will test both navigation and endurance to the limit.

Mike will be looking to continue his winning streak at Abu Dhabi riding on a strong momentum from his recent Rally 2 stage victory at Rallye du Maroc. While David will be eager to make his first mark with the team across the Arabian dunes, delivering a consistent, competitive finish for the Hero MotoSports Team Rally to close out the 2026 W2RC season.



Wolfgang Fischer, Manager and Head – Hero MotoSports Team Rally, said:
"We are happy to be here at the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge to bring home the final round of the Rally-Raid World Championship 2026. We are excited to introduce our new team rider David Braceras here for his debut race with the team. He has a great potential as he showed a glimpse today in the short prologue stage so we are all excited about his prospects and progress with the team. Mike of course needs no introduction, as he is the local Hero here and the winner of the Rally 2 Category last year. We are looking forward to a great race here starting tomorrow"

Michael Docherty, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally, said:
"It was a fun and easy prologue stage today. I am feeling good and the bike is feeling good. So looking forward to the first stage tomorrow."

David Braceras, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally, said:
"Happy to finish with my first prologue with the rally bike here. I made a mistake in reading a road book note, but this is a learning process for me. Overall, I am feeling good about how I responded today and looking forward to the first stage tomorrow. "

Overall Provisional Rankings – Prologue Stage

01.	**Mike Docherty**	**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**	**+ 05m 40s**
02.	Daniel Sanders	Redbull KTM Factory Team	+ 00m 11s
03.	Toscha Schareina	Monster Energy Honda HRC	+ 00m 12s
09.	**David Braceras**	**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**	**+ 00m 46s**

Provisional Rankings – Rally 2

Mike Docherty	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	1st Place
David Braceras	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	6th Place

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About Hero MotoCorp

Hero MotoCorp, headquartered in New Delhi, India, is the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters for 25 consecutive years with ~$5 billion revenue. The Company's global footprint spans 53 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, Central and Latin America with a customer base of over 130 million. The Company operates eight manufacturing facilities - six in India and one each in Colombia and Bangladesh - along with two Research and Development centres: Hero Centre for Innovation and Technology (CIT) in India and Hero Tech Centre Germany (TCG). Hero MotoCorp is driving the transition to electric mobility through VIDA. Strategic alliances with Harley-Davidson and Zero Motorcycles support the design and development of premium and electric motorcycles, respectively. Further demonstrating its commitment to the EV future, the Company has made strategic investments in two- and three-wheeler EV manufacturers, Ather Energy and Euler Motors. Hero MotoCorp is the only Indian two-wheeler manufacturer listed on the prestigious Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI). Hero MotoCorp's Executive Chairman, Dr. Pawan Munjal, was named to the 2025 TIME100 Climate List of the 100 most influential leaders driving business climate action. Beyond mobility, Hero MotoCorp is a major global promoter of sports, including golf, football, field hockey, and cricket. Hero MotoSports Team Rally is India, a flag bearer in global rally racing.