HERO MOTOSPORTS TEAM RALLY CONTINUES ITS WINNING RUN AT ADDC 2026

MIKE DOCHERTY LEADS THE CHARGE WITH A WIN IN THE STAGE 1

DAVID BRACERAS IN TOP 5 IN RALLY 2 CATEGORY

Madinat Zayed, UAE, 23 Nov 2026

The first full challenge of the 35th Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge got underway today as Hero MotoSports Team Rally took on Stage 1, a demanding 336-kilometre journey from Al Ain to Madinat Zayed, featuring 226 kilometres of timed competition across the UAE's desert terrain.





Both riders of Hero MotoSports Team Rally put up a strong showing in Stage 1 today. Coming off a sensational double victory in yesterday's Prologue, where he won both the overall FIM classification and the Rally 2 category ahead of his Rally GP rivals, Mike Docherty extended his winning streak by finishing the stage in 1st place in the overall rankings. Meanwhile, Spanish rider David Braceras, delivered a composed ride to finish in top 5 in 4th place in the Rally 2 category and 8th in the overall rankings.

Stage 1 took competitors from Al Ain deep into the Al Dhafra region toward the Madinat Zayed bivouac, featuring fast desert tracks, technical navigation, and the opening stretches of soft sand dunes across a 227km timed special and 110 kms of road liaisons.

Starting at the front of the pack, Mike rode with a good rhythm and composure delivering a flawless stage, extending his winning run. For David Braceras, today marked an important milestone in his first rally-raid outing with the squad,

As the riders arrive at the Madinat Zayed bivouac, the focus now shifts to the next challenge, with four more stages still to come. The Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge continues tomorrow with Stage 2, a 389-kilometre route from Madinat Zayed to coastal Al Sila' featuring a 330-kilometre timed special leading into the Marathon Camp.



Michael Docherty, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally, said:
“I got the P1 for me and the team today so very happy with that. The bike was working very well and I felt comfortable with my rhythm and pace. Once I caught up with Daniel, I knew I could control the stage from there. It is an important and a long day tomorrow and I will be opening the stage as well so looking forward to that.”

David Braceras, Rider, Hero MotoSports Team Rally, said:
“Happy to finish my first stage in the desert today. The bike was working perfectly and I had a good feeling out there today. I tried to focus on my navigation today and made no mistake, so I am happy with that. I am trying to take it day by day to learn and improve as much as I can.”

Overall Provisional Rankings – Stage 1

01.	**Mike Docherty**	**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**	**+ 02h 26m 20s**
02.	Luciano Benavides	Redbull KTM Factory Team	+ 03m 23s
03.	Adrian Van Beveren	Monster Energy Honda HRC	+ 04m 38s
08.	**David Braceras**	**Hero MotoSports Team Rally**	**+ 15m 31s**

Provisional Rankings – Rally 2

Mike Docherty	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	1st Place
David Braceras	Hero MotoSports Team Rally	4th 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.