

Press Release March 30, 2024

Preview of the 46. Laser Hero Lavanttal-Rallye powered by Dohr Wolfsberg (AUT)

- -35 teams from the Mitropa Rally Cup (MRC) will be battling for points in the second round of the Mitropa Rally Cup 2024.
- The participants from 7 nations will compete for victory in the classification groups on 13 special stages with a length of 157 kilometers.
- Selective special stages await the teams and spectators around Wolfsberg.

(Munich, March 30, 2024) With the traditional 46. Laser Hero Lavanttal Rally powered by Dohr Wolfsberg in Carinthia (04.-06.04.24), the Mitropa Rally Cup (MRC) is starting its second round this year. A total of 76 teams have registered to take part in what is probably Austria's oldest rally event. The Mitropa Rally Cup has 35 teams registered from seven nations - Germany is represented by 10 teams, followed by Italy with 9 teams, Austria with 8, Hungary with 5 teams and Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Slovenia are each represented by one team.

In the classification for vehicles according to the current FIA regulations, 16 participants will start, led by the German newcomer to the Mitropa Rally Cup, the former German rally champion from 2022 Philip Geipel, who will take to the stages with starting number 7 in a Skoda Fabia Rally2 Evo in the middle of the phalanx of the Austrian rally elite with co-driver Katrin Becker. He will be followed by #8 Albert von Thurn und Taxis (DEU), Skoda Fabia Rally2 Evo, who leads the MRC standings with an 8-point lead over Geipel after the first round of the Cup. Also back at the start is Hermann Gaßner senior, currently third in the championship, who will once again be chasing points with co-driver Karin Thannhäuser in the Mitsubishi Lancer Evo X R4 with start number 12. In addition, another newcomer from Germany, Björn Satorius (start number 11), has also submitted his entry with co-driver Jennifer Lerch in a Ford Fiesta Rally2. So there should be plenty of excitement.

In the MRC classification for historic cars according to FIA Annex K, 12 teams will be fighting for points. No fewer than 5 teams are the favorites in the battle for victory in this category. The championship leader, Patrik Hochegger (AUT), will start again with his Opel Kadett GT/E. The Italian Rino Muradore and the Austrian Gerhard Openauer see their chances of victory in a Ford Escort RS 2000 MKII. Tyrolean Alois Nothdurfter (Ford Sierra RS Cosworth) and German Burghard Brink (Lancia Delta Integrale 16V) will also be competing for the first time this year. The reigning champion in the Mitropa Rally Historic Cup, Paolo Lulli (ITA), is relying on his tried-and-tested Peugeot 205 GTI 1.6.

In the internal Club Championship category, reigning champion Martin Kainz from Germany will once again be chasing points with the Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX. A total of 7 registered teams will take on the special stages in the category for vehicles that are no longer homologated.



MITROPA RALLY CUP 2024

In this race, which is also part of the Austrian Rally Championship, the participants will start on Friday at 14:00. The winners will be decided on a total of 13 special stages over 157 timed kilometers, 18 kilometers of which are on gravel. The finish line is at 18:00 on Saturday at the event center in St. Stefan near Wolfsberg.

The Mitropa Rally Cup is of the oldest rally series in Europe. It was founded in 1965. The series is a championship recognized by the FIA (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile). Participants can register in the categories FIA homologated vehicles and historic vehicles according to FIA Appendix K.

Mitropa Rally Cup Calendar 2024

15.-16.03.24	11. Int. LKW FRIENDS on the road Rebenland-Rallye (AUT)
05.-06.04.24	46. Laser Hero Lavanttal-Rallye powered by Dohr Wolfsberg (AUT)
26.-27.04.24	Rally Elba (ITA)
26.-27.05.24	39. AMTK Rally Velenje (SVN)
23.-25.06.24	57. Mecsek Rallye (HUN)
12.-13.07.24	Rally del Casentino (ITA)
05.-07.09.24	13th MOTUL Rally Kumrovec (HRV)
27.-29.09.24	Rally Nova Gorica (SVN)
24.-26.10.24	Rallye du Valais (CHE)
16.11.24	Pricegiving Bavaria (DEU)

<https://mitropa-rally-cup.com/>

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Albert von Thurn und Taxis/Jara Hain (DEU) – Škoda Fabia RS Rally2
Photo Credit: Paolo Drioli



Philip Geipel/Katrin Becker (DEU) – Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo
Photo Credit: Paolo Drioli

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Patrik Hochegger/Julia Hochegger (AUT) – Opel Kadett GT/E
Photo Credit: Paolo Drioli



Martin Kainz/Stefanie Fritzensmeier (DEU) – Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX
Photo Credit: Paolo Drioli

MITROPA RALLY CUP 2024



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