



PRESS INFORMATION
TEAM NISSAN DESSOUE
LISBON - DAKAR 2006

Preparations underway for the NISSAN DESSOUE 'Armada' ...

The 28th edition of the Lisbon Dakar looks like being particularly strong, if the route and the quality of the teams are anything to go by. All the ingredients have, once again, been brought together by ASO (Amaury Sport Organisation) so that this year's trip across Africa (after a start from Lisbon) can take place in the best possible conditions. The fifteen stages will be long and hard for all those taking part, who will be up against the clock – and the terrain...

Therefore, from January 2nd, after two special stages in Portugal, the ten Team Dessoûde crews will set off in Morocco with just one aim : to reach Dakar ! The whole Nissan Dessoûde family is ready, like an army before a battle, under the command of general André Dessoûde... After entering nine cars last year, ten will line up on the starting ramp in Lisbon this year. André Dessoûde, known affectionately as the « wizard of Saint-Lô », cannot hide his pride in such an achievement. He has been living this adventure for 24 years now, first as a driver and then as a team boss, and the love which ties him to this epic adventure is boundless. To the oft-asked question of what makes André Dessoûde, now over 60, 'run', he responds with these heartfelt words : «*Every year, the requests flood in to drive our cars. The requests do not just come from French crews, they extend well outside the European boundaries. You only have to look at the nationalities of this year's drivers. As long as I feel that wind blowing, I will carry on. All these requests push me to continue, and I love my team more than anything ! The day the telephone stops ringing, it will be a terrible day for me !*»

André Dessoûde, supported by Nissan for decades, does not intend to rest on his laurels. «*I am both happy and proud of the team I manage. It is beautiful, friendly and very professional. Over the years, we have grown stronger, and the 'key' people around me have my full confidence. Because, even if improvisation plays an important role in the Dakar, the trio made up of Michel Targez (chief mechanic), Dominique Peres (engine specialist) and Raymond Loin (coordinator of the mechanics) as well as Géraldine Deshayes, allow me to sleep soundly and to have less weight on my shoulders, while still being involved with everything.*»

The Dakar is a real institution with Dessoûde. The whole team gets underway, meaning 74 people (including the crews) who make up the soul of this nomadic structure, with nine trucks (three T4 and six T5) and five Patrol cars which carry the mechanics.

Team Dessoûde will not be there just to be placed. The pride of the clan will be the Nissan Navara, in the hands of Portuguese driver Carlos Sousa (navigated by Jean-Marie Lurquin from Belgium). «*I am very proud to have Carlos in the team. Taking the current configuration into account, and on an event like the Dakar, he is the ideal driver. He is very consistent and good at endurance, being able to manage the length of such an event. He uses his head, without excess zeal or getting carried away. Moreover, he respects the men and their work, as well as his vehicle. It is a real delight to work with him.*»





They could create a surprise in this Dakar, particularly as Christophe Chapelain, Nismo engineer and 'father' of the Navara will watch over his 'offspring' with his usual professionalism.

A coherent team, full of ambition, as shown by the duo of Paul Belmondo and Bernard Irissou, or René Metge and Bernard Chevalier, back for yet another year.

Rally driver Benoît Rousselot is back in the 'Production' class, better prepared for his second participation, without forgetting the « Miguels », Barbosa and Ramalho, who need no further presentation...

Behind the wheel of the two T1 Pickups, we will find the talented Polish driver Krzysztof Holowczyc, partnered by Jean Marc Fortin from Belgium, and Jun Mitsuhashi from Japan, who won Nismo's promotion programme, and who will be driven for the first time by 'in-house co-driver' Jacky Dubois. The combination of the Japanese driver's determination and Jacky's experience could quite well create a surprise.

Faithful to his 'promotion' philosophy, the two Chinese drivers Zhou Yong and Xu Lang will add some colour to the Nissan team, driving Nissan Paladin T1 vehicles, produced in China.

And this cosmopolitan team, made up of Japanese, Chinese, Poles, Portuguese, Belgians and, of course, French, will all work together in order to ensure that during this 28th crossing from Lisbon to Dakar, no-one will leave the ship until they reach the port of Dakar, on January 15th.

● THE CREWS

N°311 Carlos SOUSA (POR) – Jean-Marie LURQUIN (BEL)	Nissan Navara T1
N°323 Krzysztof HOLOWCZYC (POL) – Jean-Marc FORTIN (BEL)	Nissan Pick-Up T1
N°325 Jun MITSUHASHI (JPN) – Jacky DUBOIS (FRA)	Nissan Pick-Up T1
N°329 Miguel BARBOSA (POR) – Miguel RAMALHO (POR)	Nissan X-Trail T1
N°337 Benoît ROUSSELOT (FRA) – Sylvain PONCET (FRA)	Nissan Pathfinder T2
N°341 Paul BELMONDO (FRA) – Bernard IRISSOU (FRA)	Nissan Pathfinder T2
N°374 Zhou YONG (CHI) – Denis SCHURGER (FRA)	Nissan Paladin T1
N°385 Xu LANG (CHI) – Fabian LURQUIN (BEL)	Nissan Paladin T1
N°416 René METGE (FRA) – Bernard CHEVALIER (FRA)	Nissan Pathfinder T2
N°470 Jacky BOURGIN (FRA) – Jean-Marc THOME (FRA)	Nissan Pathfinder T1

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● PHOTOS

A dedicated internet photo site for Team NISSAN DESSOUE is available, where high-resolution photos can be downloaded (copyright-free for press use only). This site will be updated daily during the race. To use the site, please go to the following address:
http://www.desert-runner.net/T_Dessoude/index.htm



N°311 Carlos SOUSA (POR) – Jean-Marie LURQUIN (BEL) Nissan Navara T1

• Carlos SOUSA (POR)

DRIVER

Born January 16th 1966, Married, one child

After a brilliant career with Mitsubishi, Carlos Sousa has been driving for Nissan since the 2005 Dakar (during which he drove a Team Dessoûde N03 Pickup). He will now be back, but this time he will drive the N05 version of the Navara. A more powerful car, able to compete with the best. For the first time, his navigator will be Jean-Marie Lurquin, who was his rival for many years, most notably during the now legendary duels with Jean Louis Schlesser. Even if the winner of the 2003 World Cup for Cross Country Rallies has not had much experience with the Navara, he will be able to count on Jean Marie Lurquin's experience, as the Belgian finished the 2005 Dakar in 4th place in this very car.

CAREER RECORD

1989	Starts competing in Cross Country rallies
1990-1991	Cross Country Portuguese National Trophy – 3 rd overall
1995	Winner of the T1 category
1996	1 st Cross Country Portuguese National Championship/12 th Grenada-Dakar – 3 rd cat.T1
1997	10 th Dakar-Dakar – 1 st cat.T1
1998	1 st Cross Country Portuguese National Championship
1999	1 st Cross Country Portuguese National Championship/1 st Baja Portugal
2000	1 st Baja Portugal
2001	1 st Cross Country Portuguese National Championship/5 th Paris-Dakar/1 st Baja Portugal – 2 nd Baja Espana
2002	2 nd Cross Country Portuguese National Championship/1 st Baja Portugal – 2 nd Baja Espana 5 th Arras – Madrid - Dakar
2003	4 th Telefonica-Dakar/3 rd Baja Italia/1 st Baja Portugal – 2 nd Rally Morocco 1 ^{er} Baja Greece – 1 st Orient Rally Cappadoce/2 nd Rally Por Las Pampas Winner of the World Cup for Cross Country Rallies
2004	1 st Baja Espana/1 st Baja Portugal/1 st Baja Italia/3 rd Rally Morocco/2 nd Baja Portalegre
2005	7 th overall Telefonica Dakar – Nissan Pickup (with Thierry Delli Zotti) 11 th Baja Portalegre – Nissan Navara N05 (with Jean Marie Lurquin)

• Jean-Marie Lurquin (BEL)

CO-DRIVER

Born 22nd March 1954 in Liège (Belgium), Married, 2 children

Before becoming a talented navigator, Jean-Marie Lurquin was a rally driver. He first took part in the Dakar in 1990. This first experience finished in retirement, but the Belgian knew that he would be back... Since then, he has alternated between the car and truck categories, entering every race. With 14 Dakar participations and counting, as well as a number of rounds of the World Cup, Jean-Marie is an expert as far as the African trails are concerned. Twice finishing second overall in the World Cup for Cross Country Rallies, first with Josep-Maria Servia, and then alongside Jean-Louis Schlesser, Jean-Marie Lurquin has a number of fine wins on his career record. The only thing he is missing, although he came close in 2004, is undoubtedly the most prized of all, the Dakar. Extremely enthusiastic at the idea of driving with Carlos Sousa, Jean-Marie could well surpass himself...

CAREER RECORD

1985	Belgian rally Champion
1987	1 st win– Belgian Off Road Championship
1988 to 1991	: Winner of the Belgian Off Road Championship
1993	Dakar 18 th overall-Nissan Terrano, 1 st T1 Marathon
1994	Dakar 51 st cat. Truck – 1 st 6x6
1996	Dakar : 34 th – Rally Morocco : 14 th
1997	Dakar : truck cat. – Rally Morocco: 15 th Nissan Patrol T1
1998	Dakar : 20 th Nissan Patrol T3 - Thierry Sabine Trophy/ Egypt : 11 th Nissan Patrol T3 – UAE Desert Challenge Dubai: 8 th Nissan Patrol T3
1999	Dakar : 15 th Nissan Patrol T3 -Tunisia : 14 th / Egypt : 14 th , 1 st Marathon UAE Desert Challenge Dubai : 9 th Nissan Terrano T2
2000	Vice Champion World Cup for Co-drivers / Co-driver for Josep-Maria Servia Dakar-Cairo – 4 th overall - Optic 2000 Tunisia– 6 th overall Orpi Morocco – 2 nd overall- Master Rally – 1st overall/ UAE Desert Challenge – 1 st overall
2001	Co-driver for Josep-Maria Servia / Paris-Dakar - 4 th overall- Optic 2000 Tunisia– 3 rd overall
2002	Co-driver for Josep-Maria Servia / - Baja Italia – 2 nd overall/ Rally Argentina – 1 st overall
2003	Vice Champion World Cup for Co-drivers / Co-driver for Jean Louis Schlesser Telefonica Dakar - Retirement - Optic 2000 Tunisia– 1 st overall/ Baja Portugal – 4 th overall Orient Rally- 1 st overall(exclusion) – Rally Argentina- 1 st overall/UAE Desert Challenge – 2 nd overall
2004	Telefonica Dakar – 3 rd overall (co-driver for Jean Louis Schlesser)/ Optic 2000 Tunisia – 6 th scratch
2005	Dakar – 4 th scratch (Giniel de Villiers – Nissan Pickup)/ Orpi Morocco (Serge Jordan)– Nissan Pathfinder / Orient Rally– 4 th overall Nissan Pathfinder 11 th Baja Portalegre – Nissan Navara N05 –co-driver for Carlos Sousa



N°323 Krzysztof HOLOWCZYC (POL) – Jean-Marc FORTIN (BEL)
Nissan Pick-Up T1

● **Krzysztof HOLOWCZYC (POL)**

DRIVER

Born on June 4th 1962 in Olsztyn

Krzysztof HOLOWCZYC is today the most-titled Polish rally driver : many times Polish Champion and European Rally Champion, he is a serious candidate with a flattering record in the World Championship. He is also an authority in his home land in road safety.

In 1984, Krzysztof, driving a Fiat 125p, started his first rally. The next year, with the same car, he became the Polish rally champion in Group N. A few years later, in 1995, Krzysztof was successful once more with the Stomil Olsztyn Mobil 1 team. The results speak for themselves : Polish Rally Champion and a brilliant vice-champion of Europe. In 1999, with a Subaru Impreza 555, Holowczyc won the Alben, Elpa and Cyprus rallies, and finally became the European Champion. He therefore became one of the drivers on the famous 'A' list at the FIA (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile) among the best rally drivers in the world. In 1998, Krzysztof Holowczyc, this time with a Subaru Impreza WRC, taking part in five rounds of the World Championship, and achieving some rather spectacular results – his seventh place in the Rally of Argentina is still the best result from a Polish driver. In 1999, he took part in his national Championship. With his Subaru Impreza WRC, Holowczyc became the Polish champion for the third time. In 2001, he changed brands, and took part in the Polish Championship with a Peugeot 206 WRC, finishing second. The next year, in 2003, he regained his title, this time with a Mitsubishi Lancer Evo. In 2004, he won the Kormoran rally for the sixth time with a Subaru Impreza. Finally, in 2005, he won the Rally of Poland (for the third time), one of the rounds of the European Championship, again with a Subaru Impreza.

Krzysztof Holowczyc does not hesitate when he says that he prefers technical, difficult events : « The more demanding it is, the better it is for me, » he said. Many people consider him a gravel specialist. However, his remarkable results on asphalt and in wintery conditions prove that he is able to go quickly in all conditions.

The 2005 Dakar was his rally-raid debut. Having had a few problems with his Mitsubishi Pajero, he finished the event in 60th position having shown all his talent, having been placed as high as 8th, 12th and 14th place positions overall. With the support of PKN Orlen, the biggest Polish company, he intends to continue his glorious motorsport career, most specifically in Rally Raids, over the coming years.

A great driver, Holowczyc is obviously very popular with rally fans and the general Polish public. He was elected the 'most popular sportsman' in Poland in 1997. Since then, through polls and surveys, he is regularly at the top of the favourite sportsmen in his country. He is also very well known for his work in road safety in Poland. In this area, Holowczyc took part in a major national campaign on the theme 'drivers under the influence of alcohol are bringers of death,' which helped to reinforce the legal situation. In 1999, he was the co-founder of the first professional driving school in Poland (SJS) which, day after day, helps drivers to improve their daily driving skills, and therefore improving the situation on the Polish roads. In 2004, he launched the Foundation « Safe Driver » whose mission is to fight for even better safety conditions on the roads of his country.

CAREER RECORD

1999 Polish Asphalt Champion
2003 European Champion
2005 French Champion
Rallye - Raid
1999 Baja Portugal 99 Retires
2005 Finishes the Dakar, but too far back to remember....

● **Jean Marc FORTIN (FRA)**

CO-DRIVER

Born on July 4th 1968

CAREER RECORD

1992 Belgian Asphalt Champion
1995 Vice champion of Britain on gravel with Grégoire de Mévius
1996 Champion of Belgium



N°325 Jun MITSUHASHI (JPN) – Jacky DUBOIS (FRA) Nissan Pick-Up T1

● Jun MITSUHASHI (JPN)

DRIVER

Born July 2nd 1970

Jun's career started in bikes in the 1990's. After a number of successes in Japan in Endurance racing, he discovered rally raids, and fell under the charm of this area of the sport, the symbol of adventure and extreme effort.

He took part in three editions of the Dakar, and finished 12th overall in 2002. In 2003, he joined the Nismo programme for training young Japanese drivers. Placed in Team Nissan Dessoude to complete his training, he took part in his first four-wheeled event in September 2003, in the Pharaohs Rally. This Dakar will be his third with a car and for the first time he will be co-driven by the expert Jacky Dubois...

CAREER RECORD

- 1991 1st PARE-NASU (Japan)
- 1992 2nd in class 125cc Baja 1000
- 1994 1st in class 2-day of Hidaka (Japan) /1st in class 2-day Survival Enduro (Japan)/ 18th overall Nevada rally
- 1996 1st in class Enduro 2 jours d'Hidaka (Japan)
- 1998 1st in class Enduro 2 jours d'Hidaka (Japan)/2nd overall 2-day Enduro Survival (Japan)
- 1999 1st in class Teigi 400 Enduro (Japan)/1st overall 2-day Survival Enduro (Japan)/1st overall SSER (Japan)
1st overall 2-day Hidaka Enduro (Japan)/20th overall UAE Desert Challenge
- 2000 1st overall Takayama Offroad Enduro (Japan)/1st overall SSER (Japan)/1st overall Mongolian Rally Raid
- 2001 3rd Teigi 400 Enduro (Japan)/1st overall 2-day Survival Enduro (Japan)
22th overall Paris Dakar
- 2002 1st overall Teigi 400 Enduro (Japan)/1st overall MT Monkey Scramble (Japan)
1st overall Gallop X (Japan)/ 12th, Paris –Dakar
- 2003 16th, Paris Dakar (Moto)/9th Rally of the Pharaohs (Automobile)
3rd Shamrock – Morocco (Automobile)
- 2004 Dakar (Auto) – retirement – Nissan Pathfinder
Baja Espana (Auto) – Nissan X-Trail
1st Shamrock – Morocco (Auto) – Nissan X-Trail
- 2005 11th Telefonica-Dakar – Nissan X-Trail/ Baja Italy

● Jacky DUBOIS (FRA)

CO-DRIVER

Born 9th June, 1949 at Preully sur Claise, Married with two children

Jacky Dubois started his career ten years ago. From the steppes of Central Asia to the African dunes, he has taken part in many legendary events, and has accumulated solid experience. Between 1999 and 2003, he has been driving alongside Thierry de Lavergne, in a Nissan. In 2004, he started to navigate for Grégoire de Mevius (who had rejoined Nissan) during the Rally of the Orient. A first experience that finished with an overall victory. A few months later, second place in the Desert Challenge saw the duo finish a top-class season.

CAREER RECORD

- 1992 Takes part in the Paris-Moscow-Peking rally
- 1993 Rally of the Pharaohs, winner of the marathon-diesel category
- 1994 8th in the Trucks category of the Paris-Dakar-Paris, 5th in the Rally of Tunisia, 6th in the Atlas Rally and takes part in the Desert Challenge
- 1995 6th in the Rally Paris-Grenade-Dakar, takes part in the Rally of Tunisia
- 1996 9th in the Paris-Peking Rally and takes part in the Granada-Dakar rally
- 1997 6th in the Dakar-Agades-Dakar (with 1 stage victory), 14th in the Rally of Tunisia and 6th in the Desert Challenge
- 1998 6th in the Paris-Dakar (1st in the T3 category), 3rd in the Rally of Tunisia,/ 5th in the Atlas Rally and 7th in the Desert Challenge. **Finishes 4th in the FIA World Cup for co-drivers.**
- 1999 8th in the Paris-Dakar, 3rd in the Master Rally, 5th in the UAE Desert Challenge, 6th in the Rally of Tunisia and 3rd in the Rally of Egypt
- 2000 8th in the Paris-Dakar-Cairo Rally, 3rd in the Rally of Tunisia, 3rd in the Master Rally and 3rd in the Rally of Egypt (1st in the T1 marathon category)
- 2001 9th in the Paris-Dakar, 2nd in the Rally of Tunisia, 6th in the Master Rally.
- 2002 1st Petrol Production PARIS DAKAR - 5th in the Rally of TUNISIA
- 2003 DAKAR with Thierry De Lavergne – Nissan Pickup – Baja Espana with Yves Loubet – Nissan Pickup
1st Pharaohs Rally with Yves Loubet – Nissan Pickup
- 2004 DAKAR with P. Wambergue – Nissan Pickup /Rally Tunisia with P.Belmondo – Nissan X-Trail
Rally Morocco with P.Belmondo – Nissan X-Trail/1st Rally of Orient with Grégoire de Mevius – Nissan Pickup
2nd UAE Desert Challenge with Grégoire de Mevius – Nissan Pickup
- 2005 Retirement Barcelona – Dakar- Gregoire de Mevius – Nissan Pickup (crash in Atar loop)



N°329 Miguel BARBOSA (POR) – Miguel RAMALHO (POR)
Nissan X-Trail T1

● **Miguel BARBOSA (POR)**

DRIVER

Born on June 9th 1978

CAREER RECORD

1993 7th in the karting race "Concha de Cristal"
1994 6th of the Diana Trophy
1995 2nd of the Diana Trophy - Cat. B & 5th in the 24 Horas de Karting à Estoril
4th in the Evora Endurance – Cat. Super
Winner of the 24 Hours of Karting in Évora
1996 Takes part in the Karting Championship in Portugal (Inter A)
1997 2nd in the 24 Hours of Karting at Baltar & 7th in the Formula Ford Championship
2nd in the Telecel Ford Fiesta 24 Hours
1998 Takes part in two rounds of the Portuguese Rally Championship
4th in the Portuguese Formula Ford Championship
Winner of the PlayStation Formula Ford Award
1999 Takes part in three off-road rallies in Portugal (19th)
2000 18th in the Portuguese Off-Road Championship (5th T2)
2001 Champion of the T2 category of the Off-Road Rallye (Mitsubishi Pajero Evolution)
2002 Championship Off-Road Runner-Up in Portugal (Mitsubishi Strakar)
Spanish Off-Road Championship
Winner of the Baja Portalegre 500 and of the TT Rally Esporão Vindimas
4th of the Rally TT Segafredo Zanetti & 6th of the Rally TT Castelo Branco
3rd of the Rallye TT Lameirinho/Serras do Norte & 2nd in the Baja Portugal 1000
4th in the Rally TT Casa do Pessoal RTP & 2nd in the Rally TT Terras D'El Rei
2003 Winner of the Portuguese Off-Road Championship (Mitsubishi Strakar)
Winner of the Baja Portalegre and the Baja Optiroc
Winner of the Rally TT Esporão Vindimas
2nd in the Rally TT Segafredo Zanetti and the Rally TT Serras do Norte
2004 3rd in the Portuguese Off-Road Championship (Mitsubishi Strakar)
Winner of the Baja Terres Del Rei and takes part in the Baja Vodafone 1000
2nd in the Rally TT Vinho Piornos & and the Rallye TT Segafredo Zanetti
3rd in the Rally TT Esporão Vindimas & 4th in the Baja Anta da Serra 500 Portalegre
2005 Winner of the Off-Road Portugal (BMW X5 - X-Raid) and the Rally TT Esporão
2nd in the Rally TT HP iPAQ Montes Alentejanos & 4th in the Rally TT Castelo Branco
2nd in the Baja Maxit/Serra de Monchique
2nd in the Rally TT Selenis/Serras du Nord & 5th de la Baja TT Terres d'El Rei
Baja Vodafone 1000

● **Miguel RAMALHO (POR)**

CO-DRIVER

CAREER RECORD

1989 Starts his sporting career through rallying
1999 National Rally Champion (Group N) as a co-driver
2002 National Rally Champion (Class S1600) as a co-driver
2003-2004 & 2005 National Rally Champion as a co-driver
2000 Starts competing in rally-raids
2002/2003/2005 National Cross-Country Rally Champion as co-driver
2001 & 2002 2nd in the National Championship
2004 3rd in the National Championship



N°337 Benoît ROUSSELOT (FRA) – Sylvain PONCET(FRA)
Nissan Pathfinder T2

• **Benoît ROUSSELOT (FRA)**

DRIVER

Born on May 1st 1973, single

French Rally Champion in 2002, vice champion in 2003, Benoît Rousselot, aged 32, has a fine rally career record. But the driver from Nancy decided to give a new start to his career by turning towards all-terrain rallies. He joined Team Nissan France Dessoûde for the 2005 Dakar. Mission accomplished for his first participation, as he reached the end of the event. With the support of Nissan France, Benoît took part in the World Cup for Cross Country Rallies this year, competing in four events in the Production category.

For the 2006 Dakar, his navigator will be Sylvain Poncet, who was the co-driver for Jun Mitsuhashi last year.

CAREER RECORD

- 1993** Paris 24 Hours - Cross country - Land Rover
Trophée Andros (205 Peugeot T16)
- 1994** Trophée Andros (Rover métro 6R4) - Montée de l'Olympe - Buggy Fouquet
- 1995** Trophée Andros (Porsche 996) – French Rally Championship (BMW M3 group A)
- 1996** « Equipe de France Espoir » - French Rally Championship (Ford Escort group A)
Lorraine –Alsace Region rally Champion
- 1997** French Rally Championship (Ford Escort groupe A) –1st podium Critérium des Cévennes
- 1998** French Rally Championship (Renault maxi Mégane) - 5th overall classification
- 1999 French Rally Championship (Renault maxi Mégane) - 4th overall classification
14th Tour de Corse WRC Round-1st amateur category
- 2000** French Rally Championship (Renault maxi Mégane) – 3rd overall classification
winner 2-litre category -Tour de Corse
- 2001** Super 1600 World Championship (Ford Puma)
French Rally Championship (Subaru Impreza) – Winner of Rallye du Touquet
- 2002** French Rally Championship (Subaru Impreza WRC)
Winner of Lyon-Charbonnières Rally – Winner of La Rochelle Rally
Winner of Cévennes rally
French Rally Champion
- 2003** French Rally Championship (Subaru Impreza WRC)
Winner of Cœur de France rally (Tours) –Winner of Cévennes Rally
2nd overall French Rally Championship
- 2004** French Rally Championship (Peugeot 206 WRC)
2nd Alsace rally – 2nd Limousin Rally- 3rd Rouergue Rally
Rally Morocco (Buggy Philippe Gache)
Winner of Rallye du Touquet – 2nd Cévennes Rally
- 2005** Dakar – Nissan Pathfinder T1
Rally Tunisia - Nissan Pathfinder Production (retirement)
Rally Morocco- Nissan Pathfinder Production- 10th overall – 2nd T2
Orient Rally- Nissan Pathfinder Production- 6th overall– 1st T2
Egypt Rally – Nissan Pathfinder Production – Retirement

• **Sylvain PONCET (FRA)**

CO-DRIVER

Born on 17th November 1972

CAREER RECORD

- 2000** 3rd Shamrock rally Morocco (car)
- 2001** 2nd Shamrock rally Morocco (car)
- 2002** 2nd Shamrock rally Morocco (car)
- 2003** 2nd Shamrock rally Morocco (quad)
15th 24 heures de Paris
- 2004** Winner Shamrock rally Morocco (car) – Jun Mitsuhashi
5th Tunisia rally (car)
- 2005** 11th Barcelona/Dakar (car) co-driver for Jun Mitsuhashi



N°341 Paul BELMONDO (FRA) – Bernard IRISSOU (FRA) **Nissan Pathfinder T2**

• Paul BELMONDO (FRA)

DRIVER

Born on April 23rd 1963 in Boulogne Billancourt, Married, 3 children

Paul became an Elf driver in 1982 and made his way through the junior classes, first in Formula 3 then in Formula3000.

1985 saw him take part in the 24 Hours of Le Mans for the first time, with a Porsche.

Seeing his talent, the March Illmor Formula One team offered him a seat in 1992. He was to take part in 7 Grand Prix, and finished 9th in Hungary. Since 1995, he has been racing in the GT category, initially with a Ferrari, followed by Toyota, Porsche and Chrysler.

As the boss of Paul Belmondo Racing, entered in various GT Championships, he combined the roles of driver and Team Manager. His passion for motorsport made him turn towards Rally Raids, where he discovered a new category and new challenges. During the 2003 Dakar, he reached Sharm el Sheikh after a superb event and claimed an excellent second place in the Production category with a Nissan Pathfinder. In 2004 and 2005, Paul was not able to reach Dakar. He will take his revenge in 2006, co-driven for the first time by Bernard Irissou.

CAREER RECORD

- 1992 Formula 1 – March Illmor
7 Grand Prix and 9th place in Hungary
- 1995 Debuts in GT category
- 1999** FIA GT Championship – 1st Miami (USA) – 3rd Zuhai (China)
French GT Championship – 1st Le Mans – 2nd Valencia (Spain)
- 2000** FIA GT Championship – 2nd Valencia (Spain) – 2nd Estoril (Portugal)
3rd Silverstone (GB) – 3rd Zolder (Belgium) – 3rd Magny Cours
8th FIA GT Drivers Championship
- 2001** FIA GT Championship – 5th Spa (Belgium) – 11th FIA GT Drivers Championship
4th FIA GT Teams Championship
- 2002** FIA GT Championship – 4th Enna Pergusa (Sicilia)
5th FIA GT Teams Championship
Paris-Dakar
- 2003** 1st Belcar (Zolder)
Dakar : 20th overall – 2nd Production category – Nissan Pathfinder
Rally Morocco : 10th overall – 2nd Production category – Nissan Pathfinder
- 2004** Dakar – Nissan X-Trail – retirement
Rally Tunisia - Rally Morocco

• Bernard IRISSOU (FRA)

CO- DRIVER

Born October 27th 1950 in Albi, Married, 2 children

Having taken part in the Dakar nine times between 1991 and 2005, Bernard Irissou has plenty of experience of the African rally events. After two seasons with Isabelle Patissier, this perfect agreement has paid off, as the two companions claimed the World Cup for Cross Country Rallies in Production category (T2) last year and an overall win on the 1st Oman Desert Express.

For his ninth Dakar entry, Bernard will share the Nissan Pathfinder T2 with Paul Belmondo. It will be their first collaboration.

CAREER RECORD

1991 to 1994 Dakar

- 2001 Dakar
- 2002 Dakar - Rally Tunisia - Baja Espana
- 2003 Dakar
Rally Tunisia with Isabelle Patissier – 20th overall and 1st Marathon Diesel
Rally Morocco with Isabelle Patissier – 12th overall and 1st Marathon Diesel
- 2004 Dakar with Isabelle Patissier – Nissan Pathfinder – 24th overall and 2nd Production
1st overall Oman Desert Express with Isabelle Patissier – Nissan Pathfinder
1st T1 Rally Tunisia with Isabelle Patissier – Nissan Pathfinder
1st T1 Rally Morocco with Isabelle Patissier – Nissan Pathfinder
1st T1 Orient Rally with Isabelle Patissier – Nissan Pathfinder
2nd T1 UAE Desert Challenge with Isabelle Patissier – Nissan Pathfinder
Winner of the World Cup for Cross Country Rallies – T1 Category
- 2005** Dakar with Isabelle Patissier - Nissan Pathfinder, Tunisia Rally and Baja Italy with Serge Jordan (Nissan Tecnosport)



N°416 René METGE (FRA) – Bernard CHEVALIER (FRA)
Nissan Pathfinder T2

● **René METGE (FRA)**

DRIVER

CAREER RECORD

- 1972** Winner of the R12 Gordini Cup
- 1975** 3rd in the French Supertouring Championship with a Triumph Dolomite Sprint
- 1976** French Supertouring Champion with a Triumph Dolomite Sprint
- 1977** 2nd in the French Supertouring Championship with a Triumph Dolomite Sprint
- 1978** French Supertouring Champion with a Triumph Dolomite Sprint
2nd in the Abidjan-Nice Rally with a Range Rover (driving alone)
- 1979** 2nd in the French Supertouring Championship with a Triumph Dolomite Sprint
- 1980** Paris-Dakar Rally in a Leyland truck Marathon 26T – 1st in the 6x4 category
- 1981** Winner of the Paris-Dakar with Bernard Giroux in a Range Rover
- 1982** French Supertouring Champions with a Rover 3.5
European Supertouring Championship with a BMW 635
5th in the 24 Hours of Le Mans (Porsche 935 K3 Cook Racing) – 1st group 5
- 1983** Winner of the 24 Hours of Le Mans Trucks (Man)
- 1984** 24 Hours of Le Mans with a Porsche 956 Canon Rothmans
Winner of the Paris-Dakar with Dominique-Lemoine with a Range Rover ; 4th in the Morocco Rally;
2nd in the Baja 1000 with Patrick Zaniroli with a Citroën 4x4
- 1986** French and European Supertouring Championships (BMW)
Winner of the Paris-Dakar with Dominique-Lemoine in a Porsche Rothmans
Winner of the Round of the Sands with de Moncorgé and a Buggy Buggy Porsche
- 1987** 7th in the 24 Hours of Le Mans with Claude-Ballot-Lena and a Porsche 961 (1st IMSA)
6th of the French Supertouring Championship with a BMW 635
Winner of the Porsche Turbo Cup (944)
- 1988** Technical and Sporting Director of the 9th Paris-Alger-Dakar
French Supertouring Championship with a Ford Sierra Cosworth
- 1989** Technical and Sporting Director of the 10th Paris-Alger-Dakar
French Supertouring Championship with a Ford Sierra Cosworth
Andros Trophy with a Rover 6R4
- 1990/1992** Organiser of the Harricana Mountain Raid in Canada
- 1992** Technical and Sporting Director of the 1st Paris-Moscow-Peking
- 1993** Paris-Dakar in a Perlini Truck
- 1995** Organiser of the Master Rally Paris-Moscow-Ulan Bator-Peking
- 1996** 13th Granada-Dakar with Patrick Tambay and a Mitsubishi Pajero
Organiser of the Master Rally : Paris-Ulianovsk-Ulan Bator
- 1997** Organiser of the Master Rally : Paris-Samarkand-Moscou
- 1999** Organiser of the Master Rally : Moscou-Istanboul
- 2000** Manager of the official Team Groine Développement (Mercedes)
Organiser of the Master Rally : Paris-Istanbul
- 2001** Organiser of the Master Rally : Le Cannet-Petra
- 2003/2005** Organiser of the Rally of the Orient(Turkey)
Dakar in 2002, navigator for Johnny Hallyday in a Nissan X-Trail
Dakar in 2003 with his daughter Elodie in a Mercedes LM 430
Dakar 2004, driver for Bernard Chevalier (journalist) in a Nissan

● **Bernard CHEVALIER (FRA)**

CO-DRIVER

Born June 26th 1945

You don't normally see Bernard Chevalier behind a wheel, but bent over a computer. Journalist for « L'Equipe », he covered all the rally raids during the 1990's ! A fine friendship has built up between René Metge and the 'great reporter' over the years, during the many times they have met on the tracks, during the rally raids, but also on the unforgettable Paris-Peking event, organised by René and covered, as a journalist, by Bernard...

In 2004, the pair of adventurers paired up for a first Dakar together, in a Nissan. Running out of time on the last leg before the finish, betrayed by their transmission, the two men are still hungry for that finish... Even if Bernard admitted, 'not knowing if he had the strength to start over again ! » And then, everything happened quickly, like the decision the journalist had to make almost on the spot, René only having given him a few hours to think it over. Eventually, a Nissan Pathfinder (T2) will take part in this year's event, with René at the wheel and Bernard as a navigator, and if the driver is still very fast, the co-driver's task, without paper or pen, will be to relay, through his daily newspaper articles, the lives of the amateur drivers they meet around the dunes and on the winding trails through Mali and Senegal. To carry out your profession in these difficult conditions, while still following the race is an exercise that only this particular pair could achieve ! « I have a real passion for the Dakar. It is fantastic to come back and relive it, as do all those who have discovered this race and have the same feelings for it. I am happy to be setting off again, my feelings are a mix of fear and dread, especially of not arriving each evening at the finish point...»



NISSAN NAVARA T1 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Engine	V6 (4 valves per cylinder, 4 cam, all-aluminium engine) . With variable valve timing
Engine cubic capacity	3960 cc
Max Output	200 kW at 5000 rpm
Max Torque	430 Nm at 4000 rpm
Clutch	Multi Plate carbon
Engine Management	Pectel, with engine data logging
Transmission	Six speed sequential gearbox with centre differential and single reverse
Differentials	Front and Rear with limited slip
Suspension	Front and Rear Double wishbone with dual coil-over dampers Max permissible travel for T1 250 mm
Brakes	Front and rear, four piston callipers with 320 mm ventilated discs
Rims	7 x 16"
Tyres	BF Goodrich tyres
Fuel Tank	500 litre tank for long distance liaison and stages
Steering	Power assisted rack and pinion
Maximum Speed	190 km/h
Weight (Dry)	1825 kg (T1 min weight 1750kg)
Dimensions	Length: 4 700 mm Height: 1 700 mm Width: 2 000 mm
Chassis	roll cage, incorporating all suspension pick-up points and attachment points for bodywork and ancillaries



NISSAN PICKUP T1 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Dimensions	Length	4880mm
	Width	1840mm
	Wheelbase	2950mm
	Track	1640mm
Engine	Based on the VQ series of engines (4 valves per cyl. 4 cam All-aluminium engine) 3.5 litres	
Bore/stroke	95.5 x 81.4	
Max. output	280 bhp at 5000 rpm	
Max. Torque	37 mkg at 4000 rpm	
Clutch	Twin plate 7.5" configuration	
Throttle system	Twin roller throttle system for inlet air	
Sump	Oiling system – dry sump configuration	
Engine mngt syst.	Fully programmable Pectel "T6" with internal logging, which captures engine performance history	
Transmission	Six speed sequential gearbox with centre differential and single reverse	
Suspension	Front : double wishbone with coil spring carrier and 3" shock absorber, configured to give suspension travel of 250mm Rear : double wishbone with coil spring carrier and 3" shock absorber, configured to give suspension travel of 250mm	
Front &Rear axles	Front and rear axles are centre portions from Patrol 233mm rear axle with motorsport constructed diff-housing	
Brakes	Front and rear – AP four piston callipers with 305mm ventilated discs –adjustable balance front and rear	
Wheels	Rims 16 x 7" Magnesium Alloy	
Tyres	BF Goodrich - Rims 7 x 16	
Fuel Tank	Capacity 500 litres	
Steering	Power assisted rack and pinion	
Differential	Limited slip differential front and rear	
Maximum speed	185 km/h	
Weight (empty)	1800 kg	
Roll Cage	Fully integrated roll cage	
Body panels	Composite bonnet, rear quarter, front bumper and fender panels	
Chassis	Standard chassis extensively modified and integrated roll cage system for improved torsional rigidity and durability	



NISSAN X-TRAIL / PATHFINDER T1 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Dimensions :

Length	4640 mm
Width	1850 mm
Wheelbase	2700 mm
Front track	1500 mm
Rear track	1505 mm

Engine Nissan VQ35 in aluminium – V6 24 valves

Capacity 3498cm³

Bore/stroke 95,5 x 81,4

Maximum power 260 bhp at 6500 rpm
(fitted with a 32 mm restrictor according to FIA rules)

Max. Torque 24 mkg at 4000 rpm

Transmission special 5-disc clutch

Gearbox Standard, modified by SADEV

Front suspension MacPherson with Proflex

Rear suspension Rigid axle and two shock absorbers per wheel, helicoidal springs and suspension with five anchorage points.

Direction rack and pinion

Brakes ventilated discs at the front and the rear.

Tyres BF Goodrich – OZ rims (7x16)

Fuel tank capacity 450 litres

Maximum speed 165 km/h

Weight (empty) 1800 kg



NISSAN PATHFINDER T2 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Dimensions :

Length	4350 mm
Width	1840 mm
Wheelbase	2070 mm
Front track	1064 mm
Rear track	1064 mm

Engine 3.5 litre V6

Capacity 3498cm³

Bore/stroke 95,5 x 81,40

Maximum Power 240 bhp at 6000 rpm
(fitted with a 32 mm restrictor according to FIA rules)

Max. Torque 24 mkg at 4000 rpm

Gearbox 5-speed standard gearbox

Front Suspension MacPherson Reiger

Rear Suspension rear drive with five fixation points

Steering rack and pinion assisted

Brakes standard – front stirrups 320 mm, rear drums

Tyres BF Goodrich – OZ rims (7x16)

Fuel Tank capacity 450 litres

Max. Speed 160 km/h

Weight (empty) 1940 kg

RETROSPECTIVE NISSAN-DESSOUDE ON THE RALLY-RAIDS

1984/85	1st diesel on the Paris-Dakar
1988	2nd in the marathon category in the Paris-Dakar and 2nd and 3rd in the Rally of the Pharaohs
1989	1st in the marathon category of the Paris-Dakar, 2nd in the T2 category of the Spanish Baja, 1st in the T12 category of the Rally of the Pharaohs, 1st in the T1 category and 2nd and 4th in the T2 category in the Atlas rally-raid; 1st in the T2 category of the Portuguese Baja.
1990	2nd in the T1 category of the Rally of Tunisia; 1st and 2nd in the T2 category in the Atlas, 1st in the T2 category in the Australian Safari
1991	1st in the T2 category on the Paris Tripoli Dakar, winner of the T1, T2 and diesel categories on the Rally of the Pharaohs
1992	1st in the T2 category and 2nd in the marathon category in the Paris-Le Cap, 1st and 2nd in the T1 and 2nd in the T2 category on the Paris-Moscow-Peking, 1st in the T2 category in the Rally of the Pharaohs, 1st in the T1 and 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the T3 category in the Australian Safari
1993	1st and 2nd in the T1 category in the Portugal Baja, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the T2 category of the Spanish Baja, 1st and 3rd in the T1 category of the Rally of Tunisia and 2nd and 4th in the T2 category of the Rally of Tunisia ; 1st diesel and 3rd T2 in the Rally of the Pharaohs, 1st and 2nd in T1, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in T2 in the Atlas, 1st T3 in the Australian Safari, and World Champion of the Marathon category.
1994	1st and 2nd in the T1 category, 1st in the T2 category and 1st diesel in the Rally of Tunisia, 1st in the T2 category in the Atlas Rally, 1st T2 in the Spanish Baja, 1st T2 in the Italian Baja ; 1st T2 in the Australian Safari.
1995	1st in the T1 category, 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the T2 category in the Grenada-Dakar Rally.
1997	1st stage victory in the Paris-Dakar, 6th overall.
1999	7th and 8th in the Paris-Dakar
2000	8th in the Paris-Cairo
2001	Winner of the marathon category (with Peterhansel), 7th, 8th, 10th and 12th in the overall classification of the Paris Dakar, 2nd in the Rally of Tunisia (De Lavergne), 3rd in the Master Rally and in Morocco (De Mevius). 3 rd overall of the Master Rallye
2002	Arras-Madrid-Dakar (De Lavergne) 11 th overall Rallye Tunisia (De Lavergne) 2 nd overall
2003	Dakar (De Lavergne) 11 th overall Rallye Morocco (Loubet), 4 th overall, Baja Espana (Loubet), 7 th Rallye Pharaohs (Loubet), 1 st overall
2004	Winner of the World Cup for Cross Country Rallies cat. T1 (Patissier) T1 wins (Patissier) – Rally Tunisia, Rally Morocco, Orient Rally Oman Desert Express (Patissier) – 1 st overall Orient Rally (De Mevius), 1 st overall UAE Desert Challenge (De Mevius) – 2 nd overall Shamrock Rally (Mitsubishi) – 1 st overall
2005	Nine Nissan cars on the Dakar 2005 3 wins in Production category (Cross Country World Cup) with Serguey Sukhovenko and Benoit Rouselot

● THE DAKAR 2006 ROUTE

● Scrutineering

28th, 29th and 30th December in Lisbon (Portugal).

● Rest day

Sunday January 8th 2006 in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

● Stage without assistance

Between Bamako and Labé (January 12th). On their arrival in Labé, the crews will be able to work on their vehicles, but will have to do without their assistance teams.

● Navigation

New for 2006 : the competitors will only have three sources of information : the hidden waypoints, the road book and the bearings. Navigation will be back in its place for the 28th edition of the Dakar.

● Some numbers and reference points

Longest leg : Nouakchott – Kiffa : 874 km

Shortest leg : Dakar – Dakar : 110 km

Longest special stage : Nouakchott – Kiffa : 599 km

Shortest special stage : Dakar – Dakar : 31 km

4 813 km of special stages, including 1 248 km before Mauritania, with a total distance of 9 043 km.

The legs are subdivided as follows :

Portugal : 2 legs, Morocco : 3 legs, Mauritania : 4 legs, Mali : 2 legs, Guinea : 1 leg, Senegal : 3 legs.

● THE LEGS

	Liaison	SS	Liaison	Total
31st December Lisboa-Portimao	186	83	101	370
1st January Portimao-Malaga	65	115	387	567
2nd January Nador-Er Rachidia	237	314	121	672
3rd January Er Rachidia-Ouarzazate	56	386	197	639
4th January Ouarzazate-Tan Tan	187	350	282	819
5th January Tan Tan-Zouerat	336	444	12	792
6th January Zouerat-Atar	10	499	12	521
7th January Atar-Nouakchott	34	508	26	568
8th January NOUAKCHOTT	rest day			
9th January Nouakchott-Kiffa	30	599	245	874
10th January Kiffa-Kayes	1	283	49	333
11th January Kayes-Bamako	50	231	424	705
12th January Bamako-Labe	197	368	307	872
13th January Labe-Tambacounda	7	348	212	567
14th January Tambacounda-Dakar	107	254	273	634
15th January Dakar-Dakar	38	31	41	110

● THE MAIN ENTRANTS

N°	Driver	Co-Driver	Make	Nat	Team
300	PETERHANSEL STEPHANE	COTTRET JEAN-PAUL	NISSAN	FRA	NISSAN RALLIART
301	SABY BRUNO	PERIN MICHEL	VOLKSWAGEN	FRA	VOLKSWAGEN
302	ALPHAND LUC	PICARD GILLES	NISSAN	FRA	NISSAN RALLIART
303	KLEINSCHMIDT JUTTA	PONS FABRIZIA	VOLKSWAGEN	ALL	VOLKSWAGEN
304	ROMA NANI (JOAN)	MAGNE HENRI	NISSAN	ESP	NISSAN RALLIART
305	DE VILLIERS GINIEL	THORNER TINA	VOLKSWAGEN	AFS	VOLKSWAGEN
306	MASUOKA HIROSHI	MAIMON PASCAL	NISSAN	JPN	NISSAN RALLIART
307	SAINZ CARLOS	SCHULZ ANDREAS	VOLKSWAGEN	ESP	VOLKSWAGEN
308	AL ATTIYAH NASSER SALEH	GUEHENNEC ALAIN	BMW	QAT	X - RAID
309	MILLER MARK	VON ZITZEWITZ DIRK	VOLKSWAGEN	USA	VOLKSWAGEN MO
310	HENRARD STEPHANE	DE ROISSARD ANTONIA	VOLKSWAGEN	BEL	HENRARD RACING TEAM
311	SOUSA CARLOS	LURQUIN JEAN-MARIE	NISSAN	POR	TEAM GALP ENERGIA
312	MONTERDE JOSE LUIS	SIVIERO TIZIANO	BMW	ESP	X - RAID
313	COX ALFIE	PITCHFORD RALPH	BMW	AFS	X - RAID
314	SCHLESSER JEAN-LOUIS	BORSOTTO FRANCOIS	SCHLES-FORD-RAID	FRA	SCHLESSER - FORD
315	MAGNALDI THIERRY	DEBRON ARNAUD	SCHLES-FORD-RAID	FRA	SCHLESSER - FORD
316	SERVIA JOSEP MARIA	ALCARAZ WILLIAM	SCHLES-FORD-RAID	ESP	SCHLESSER - FORD
317	GACHE PHILIPPE	GARCIN JEAN-PIERRE	BUGGY	FRA	VANGUARD/RACING
318	PALIK LASZLO	DARAZSI GABOR	NISSAN	HON	RTL MOTORSPORT KLUB
319	KIS SANDOR	CZEGLEDI PETER	NISSAN	HON	RTL MOTORSPORT KLUB
...					
323	HOLOWCZYC KRZYSZTOFF	JEAN-MARC	NISSAN	POL	NISSAN DESSOUDE
...					
325	MITSUHASHI JUN	DUBOIS JACKY	NISSAN	JPN	NISSAN DESSOUDE
326	GAMEIRO PEDRO	GAMBILLON PASCAL	NISSAN	POR	PROMOTECH RALLY RAID
...					
329	BARBOSA MIGUEL	RAMALHO MIGUEL	NISSAN	POR	NISSAN DESSOUDE
330	SHINOZUKA KENJIRO	DI PERSIO ROBERTO	NISSAN	JPN	TECNOSPORT-ITALIA
...					
337	ROUSSELOT BENOIT	PONCET SYLVAIN	NISSAN	FRA	NISSAN DESSOUDE
...					
341	BELMONDO PAUL	IRISSOU BERNARD	NISSAN	FRA	NISSAN DESSOUDE
342	KOLBERG KLEVER	BAMPI EDUARDO	NISSAN	BRE	PETROBRAS - LUBRAX
343	IVANOV ANDREY	DEMANENKO VLADIMIR	NISSAN	RUS	TECNOSPORT RUSSIA
368	LAVIEILLE CHRISTIAN	BARTHOLOME MARC	NISSAN	FRA	NISMO CHALLENGE
...					
374	ZHOU YONG	SCHURGER DENIS	NISSAN	CHI	NISSAN ZHENGZHOU
375	LU NINGJUN	PIO ALESSANDRO	NISSAN	CHI	TECNOSPORT-ITALIA
...					
385	XU LANG	LURQUIN FABIAN	NISSAN	CHI	NISSAN ZHENGZHOU
...					
416	METGE RENE	CHEVALIER BERNARD	NISSAN	FRA	NISSAN DESSOUDE
...					
470	BOURGIN JACKY	THOME JEAN MARC	NISSAN	FRA	NISSAN DESSOUDE
...					