



PRESS INFORMATION – TEAM NISSAN FRANCE DESSOUE UAE DESERT CHALLENGE 2004

**PROLOGUE: Sunday October 10th 2004
DUBAI- JEBEL ALI – 2 km**

Team Nissan France Dessoude in the Top 5...

Team Nissan France Dessoude got underway today, with the Prologue of the UAE Desert Challenge, the penultimate round of the World Cup for Cross Country Rallies. If Isabelle Patissier has come to Dubai to claim the T1 category world crown, Grégoire de Mevius' main aim is to 'warm up' for the next Dakar. During this event, the Team will have a notable 'guest driver', namely Colin McRae, who will be behind the wheel of a factory version of the 2003 Pickup (ex-Vatanen), bought by André Dessoude and entered by Nissan Europe.

Taking place near Dubaï on the Jebel Ali site, the two km prologue was far from easy. Usually a mere formality, it gave Isabelle Patissier quite a fright. Taking place over extremely soft sand, ploughed up by the motorbike and car competitors (who started in the inverse number order), Isabelle remained stuck in the sand for a long time during this tricky stage. However, Grégoire set the fifth-fastest time, having played it safe, while Colin McRae was second.

For Grégoire de Mevius, 3rd in the event in 2003, Dubai is first and foremost an excellent exercise :
« This year, Dubai will be mainly used to test new deflating – inflating tyre methods. The automatic system we had previously will be banned during the Dakar, and we want to be up to speed before January. That is why, unlike most of our rivals, we decided to do without it for this race as well. The car has made progress since Turkey, and we are aiming for reliability. Although the field is of the highest quality, we haven't got any hang-ups about it. I am very flattered to have Colin McRae as a team-mate. Moreover, our cars are quite close. The team morale is high, and I think we can have a good rally. Today, I played it safe. This short layout was a real trap. We deflated the tyres as much as possible, and at some times I thought the tyres would come off the rims. But in the end it all went well. The serious business gets underway tomorrow, and the heat will be a real handicap... »

This prologue could have turned into a nightmare for Isabelle Patissier. But it takes more than that to have an effect on the future World Champion's morale...

“This is the first time we have been to Dubai, and we are very motivated. Today's little misadventure is part of racing. We would just like to finish the season with a good result. But the competition is tough, and the local drivers know this type of terrain particularly well. The real race will start tomorrow, with the first dunes, and the real navigation. The morale is high ... and the team is motivated...”

After a liaison section towards Abu Dhabi, the competitors will start the first special stage tomorrow. The finish will take place at Moreeb, close to the Liwa Oasis , with a 351-km timed stage.



PROLOGUE Classification: 2 km

Pos.	Team	Car	Time
1-	Saby-Perin	VW Race Touareg	2.32
2 -	McRae-Thörner	NISSAN Pickup	2.34
3 -	Peterhansel – Cottret	Mitsubishi Pajero Evo 3	2.38
3 -	Masuoka-Magne	Mitsubishi Pajero Evo 2	2.38
5-	De Mevius-Dubois	NISSAN Pickup	2.40
6-	Kleinschmidt-Pons	VW Race Touareg	2.44

CONTACT INFORMATION

• TEAM NISSAN FRANCE DESSOUE

Tel : +33 (0)2.33.75.66.66 - Fax : +33 (0)2.33.75.66.69

email : nissan.dessoude@wanadoo.fr - Internet site : www.nissan-dessoude.com

• NISSAN FRANCE

Claude HUGOT- Motorsports Communication Manager - Tel : +33 (0)1.30.69.26.12 - Fax : + 33 (0)1.30.68.00.44

Press Officer : Lydie ARPIZOU – Mobile : + 33 677 844 730

email : team.nissan-dessoude@wanadoo.fr

• PHOTOS

An internet site for the NISSAN FRANCE DESSOUE team is available, where high-resolution photos can be downloaded (copyright-free for press use only). This site will be updated every day during the race. Please go to the following address, then identify yourself with the name and password given below.

Address : www.nissandessoudepresse.com - Username : nissan2004 - Password : presse