

## STAGE FLASH

<b>Date:</b>	<b>26 February 2021</b>	<b>Flash N°:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Day:</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Distance:</b>	<b>5.69 km</b>
<b>Special stage:</b>	<b>Shakedown</b>		
<b>Weather:</b>	<b>Dry, slightly misty, -2 degrees</b>		
<b>Road conditions:</b>	<b>Solid ice base with good grip levels reported</b>		

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### **Car #1. SÉBASTIEN OGIER/JULIEN INGRASSIA**

"It's really nice. I wish the conditions would be like this in the stages because it's pretty icy and actually much higher grip than I expected. I didn't drive so well actually. Okay shakedown is there to try to get the feeling again."

### **Car #33. ELFYN EVANS/SCOTT MARTIN**

"It was a bit higher grip than expected in places that's for sure. The road is quite wide with an icy base and probably going to be quite different to the rally I would say."

### **Car #11. THIERRY NEUVILLE/MARTIJN WYDAEGHE**

"I have no idea what we can achieve. The car felt quite okay for the first run but for sure we can improve a little bit and try to have a good weekend this time in the snow and fight against the Toyotas, who are going to be strong. But I'm looking forward, we had a good preparation and I feel comfortable."

### **Car #69. KALLE ROVANPERÄ/JONNE HALTTUNEN**

"It's going to be a difficult weekend for sure. I think I should enjoy these stages a lot. Now I was just trying to have a nice feeling in the car and push a bit. I made a few mistakes here and there so not so good time but for sure I try to clean it up and be even faster on the rally. Let's try to be quick this weekend."

### **Car #18. TAKAMOTO KATSUTA/DANIEL BARRITT**

"It's so fun, very nice stages. Afternoon is going to be more narrow and tricky but the feeling is very good. I need to save the tyres a bit but it's still so fun to drive and it's going to be a fun weekend."

### **Car #44. GUS GREENSMITH/ELLIOTT EDMONDSON**

"The first thing I was really surprised with was how much grip we had. I wasn't really using much of it and I just need to focus on smoothing the driving down because there were places where I felt I couldn't carry the speed but then the grip was there. There are kind of clear ways to improve which is good but it's mega, it's mega."

**Car #8. OTT TÄNAK/MARTIN JÄRVEOJA**

“We will find out for sure [how much potential this car has this weekend]. It will be nice to fight with the Toyotas but let’s see what we can do.”

**Car #3. TEEMU SUNNINEN/MIKKO MARKKULA**

“[I am wearing these glasses because] maybe I’m getting old because I need more contrast to see the snowbanks! Hopefully this helps. It felt pretty okay but it looks like we’re going to have a challenging rally ahead. Okay I can find one second, two seconds on being absolutely on the limit. It’s not going to be easy.”

**Car #42. CRAIG BREEN/PAUL NAGLE**

“It’s absolutely incredible conditions out there at the minute. You just have a road full of grip with big, lovely snowbanks. Well, they seem lovely anyway ready to push you back on the road and you can just go like the clappers and carry so much speed. Every day when you get to drive one of these cars is something special but it’s on conditions like this that it really blows your mind. It’s something special so let’s try to enjoy it.

**Car #2. OLIVER SOLBERG/SEBASTIAN MARSHALL**

“It was very fast and I just had to get a feel for it again. The grip level was so high but I just drove way too slow but it’s just great fun to be able to drive a fantastic car like this and just get experience and see how it goes.”

**Car #7. PIERRE-LOUIS LOUBET/VINCENT LANDAIS**

The grip is more high than I expected. I was too clean and thinking it would be more slippery but the grip was super-high so I will now for the next time.

**Car #12. JANNE TUOHINO/REETA HÄMÄLÄINEN**

Went wide on a right-hand corner 2.7 kilometres from the start of the stage and got stuck in a snowbank

“We will do some shovelling work now rather than on the special stage. Too slippery and too much speed in the moment. Later I will drive even faster after service.”

**Car #37. LORENZO BERTELLI/SIMONE SCATTOLIN**

“I enjoy snow, I love snow, we have perfect conditions and I am happy to be here.”

**Car #20. ANDREAS MIKKELSEN/OLA FLØENE**

“It was the worst start ever! It was the second corner and I forgot I was in a WRC2 car so I went for the paddleshift and the car wouldn’t go down a gear and then I realised so not the best one. Otherwise. I feel like home here.”

**Car #21. ADRIEN FOURMAUX/RENAUD JAMOUL**

“It’s nice to drive but honestly I was really surprised the grip was so high, it’s much more than expected. We need to find the grip and the pace but we are on the shakedown so we will try.

**Car #25. ESAPEKKA LAPPI/JANNE FERM**

“To be honest I can improve quite a bit. We’ll see later on. It’s natural to be in a WRC2 car, roughly it feels like a slow motion. Lot of spare time especially in the beginning. Things don’t happen so fast. Real rally for sure. The weather could have been a little bit colder but amazing snow and it is amazing to have this rally in TV.”

**COMMENTS**

History was made this morning with cars in action for the first time on Arctic Rally Finland Powered by CapitalBox as shakedown took place for round two of the 2021 FIA World Rally Championship. Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja were fastest ahead of their Hyundai Shell Mobis World Rally Team team-mates Thierry Neuville/Martijn Wydaeghe with Pierre-Louis Loubet/Vincent Landais third quickest in another Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC. Janne Tuohino/Reeta Hämäläinen crashed their Ford Fiesta WRC into a snowbank 2.7 kilometres from the start of the stage.