



CITROËN TOTAL WORLD RALLY TEAM

2009 FIA WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

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45<sup>th</sup> RallyRACC Catalunya – Costa Daurada (October 1-4, 2009) – Day 3

## A one-two in Spain and the 2009 World Rally Championship title\* to celebrate Citroën's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The Citroën Total World Rally Team's flag-to-flag domination of this weekend's RallyRACC Catalunya was rewarded by the outfit's third one-two finish of the season. Thanks to their sixth win of the year, Sébastien Loeb and Daniel Elena have succeeded in closing to within a single point of Mikko Hirvonen in the 2009 Drivers' standings, while second place for Dani Sordo and Marc Marti handed Citroën sufficient points to wrap up the firm's fifth Manufacturers' world crown\*. The outcome of the Drivers' title chase will be settled on Rally GB (October 23-25).

Sébastien Loeb and Dani Sordo ended Saturday's action split by just 1.5 seconds and in a strong position to fulfil the mission they had been given by Olivier Quesnel before the start. Before any celebrations could begin, however, they still had two attempts at today's loop of three-stages west of Salou to tackle, and neither driver had any intention of easing up out of a desire to stay one hundred per cent focused, savour today's six tests and entertain the huge crowds which lined the stages.

Indeed, Dani Sordo kicked off the last day with the best time on SS13 (Riudecanyes). It was then Sébastien Loeb's turn to top the timesheet on the short La Serra d'Almos test (SS15) which enabled the five-time World Champion to return to the day's first service area in Salou with a cushion of 2.3 seconds at the top of the leaderboard: "I've above all been concentrating on not cutting the corners so as to reduce the risk of puncturing. There's no point in trying to gain a few tenths of a second when there's not really any need. I will be just as cautious this afternoon, too, because the stages will probably be quite soiled second time round..."

As it turned out, the final loop had no effect on the order at the sharp end, and Sébastien Loeb and Daniel Elena were able to cruise home to collect the 53<sup>rd</sup> world class win of their career: "It was important to come first and second here, not only to wrap up the Manufacturers' championship but also to keep our chances very much alive for the Drivers' title. Everyone did a great job this weekend and



both cars ran perfectly. I would like to thank Dani, too, for playing his part as team-mate to the letter. Had the stakes not been so important this weekend, I am sure the spectators on this year's Rally Catalunya would have treated to a terrific scrap."

"I am proud to have contributed to yet another world title for Citroën," added Dani Sordo. "This title is the result of a real team effort. You cannot disassociate the engineers, mechanics and everyone in the squad from today's success."

"Today's result has allowed us to tick the first box of our 2009 wish-list by making sure of winning the Manufacturers' title\*," underlined Citroën Racing Director Olivier Quesnel. "Thanks Dani and Marc's magnificent support, Seb and Daniel will now be able to focus on just one thing on Rally GB, and that will be to finish ahead of Mikko Hirvonen to try to win a sixth Drivers' title. I also want to congratulate Petter Solberg and Sébastien Ogier on their solid performances here in Spain. Thanks to them, C4 WRCs claimed 17 of this weekend's 18 stages."

Automobiles Citroën's Managing Director Frédéric Banzet was in Spain for the finish: "A fifth world crown\* for Citroën was the best way possible to round off the weekend during which saw us celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Creative Technology across the world. On top of the result itself, I was greatly impressed by the popularity and warmth of this rally. We had a large number of Citroën guests here from across Europe and they were treated to a spectacle of an extremely high quality. I wish Sébastien Loeb and Daniel Elena the best of luck now in their bid to land a sixth world title in Wales later this month."

\* Subject to the official publication of the results by the FIA.

## RALLY FACTS

	Sébastien Loeb / Daniel Elena		Dani Sordo / Marc Marti	
	Stage	Overall	Stage	Overall
SS13 : Riudecanyes 1 (16,32 km)	4 <sup>th</sup> +0''9	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> +0''6
SS14 : Santa Marina 1 (26,51 km)	2 <sup>nd</sup> +0''5	1 <sup>st</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> +1''6	2 <sup>nd</sup> +1''7
SS15 : La Serra d'Almos 1 (4,11 km)	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>e</sup> +0''6	2 <sup>nd</sup> +2''3
SS16 : Riudecanyes 2 (16,32 km)	2 <sup>nd</sup> +0''3	1 <sup>st</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> +3''9	2 <sup>nd</sup> +5''9
SS17 : Santa Marina 2 (26,51 km)	2 <sup>nd</sup> +2''1	1 <sup>st</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> +8''8	2 <sup>nd</sup> +12''6
SS18 : La Serra d'Almos 2 (4,11 km)	6 <sup>th</sup> +0''7	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> +0''1	2 <sup>nd</sup> +12''0

### Stage wins

**Day 1** – SS1 to 4 : Dani Sordo (Citroën C4) – SS5 and 6 : Sébastien Loeb (Citroën C4).

**Day 2** – SS7 : Loeb – SS8 : Sébastien Ogier (Citroën C4) – SS9 : Sordo – SS10 : Ogier – SS11 : Loeb – SS12 : Petter Solberg (Citroën C4).

**Day 3** – SS13 : Sordo – SS14 : P. Solberg – SS15 : Loeb – SS16 and 17 : P. Solberg – SS18 : Jari-Matta Latvala (Ford Focus).

**Best performers** : Sordo, 6 fastest times – Loeb, 5 – P. Solberg, 4 – Ogier, 2 – Latvala, 1.

#### **Leaders**

SS1 to 6 : Sordo – SS7 : Sordo et Loeb – SS8 : Loeb – SS9 to 11 : Sordo – SS12 to 18 : Loeb.

#### **Provisional leaderboard on Rally Catalunya**

1.	<b>Loeb/Elena</b>	<b>Citroën C4</b>	<b>3h22'14''7</b>
2.	<b>Sordo/Marti</b>	<b>Citroën C4</b>	<b>+12''0</b>
3.	Hirvonen/Lehtinen	Ford Focus	+54''1
4.	<b>P. Solberg/Mills</b>	<b>Citroën C4</b>	<b>+1'12''4</b>
5.	<b>Ogier/Ingrassia</b>	<b>Citroën C4</b>	<b>+1'41''6</b>
6.	Latvala/Antilla	Ford Focus	+2'49''8
7.	Wilson/Martin	Ford Focus	+7'15''5
8.	Villagra/Perez Companc	Ford Focus	+8'28''1
9.	H. Solberg/Menkerud	Ford Focus	+9'07''6
10.	Snobeck/Mondésir	Peugeot 307	+10'56''0

# Unofficial FIA WRC standings

	IRL	NOR	CYP	POR	ARG	ITA	GRK	POL	FIN	AUS	ESP	GBR	TOT
<b>1</b> Mikko Hirvonen	6	8	8	8	0	8	10	10	10	10	6		<b>84</b>
<b>2</b> Sébastien Loeb	10	10	10	10	10	5	0	2	8	8	10		<b>83</b>
<b>3</b> Dani Sordo	8	4	5	6	8	0	0	8	5	6	8		<b>58</b>
<b>4</b> Jari-Matti Latvala	0	6	0	0	3	10	6	0	6	5	3		<b>39</b>
<b>5</b> Petter Solberg	-	3	6	5	0	6	0	5	0	-	5		<b>30</b>
<b>6</b> Henning Solberg	5	5	0	4	6	1	0	6	0	2	0		<b>29</b>
<b>7</b> Matthew Wilson	2	2	4	0	4	3	0	4	1	3	2		<b>25</b>
<b>8</b> Sébastien Ogier	3	0	0	0	2	0	8	0	3	4	4		<b>24</b>
<b>9</b> Federico Villagra	-	-	2	2	5	0	5	-	0	1	1		<b>16</b>
<b>10</b> Conrad Rautenbach	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0		<b>8</b>
<b>11</b> Mads Ostberg	-	0	-	3	-	2	2	0	0	-	-		<b>7</b>
<b>12</b> Khalid Al Qassimi	1	-	1	1	-	0	3	-	0	-	0		<b>6</b>
<b>13</b> Chris Atkinson	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		<b>4</b>
<b>14</b> Evgeny Novikov	-	0	0	0	-	4	0	0	0	-	0		<b>4</b>
<b>15</b> Matti Rantanen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-		<b>4</b>
<b>16</b> Krzysztof Holowczyc	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-		<b>3</b>
<b>17</b> Jari Ketomaa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-		<b>2</b>
<b>18</b> Nasser Al Attiyah	-	-	0	0	1	0	0	-	-	-	-		<b>1</b>
<b>19</b> Urmo Aava	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-		<b>1</b>
<b>20</b> L. Athanassoulas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		<b>1</b>

<b>1</b> Citroën Total WRT	18	14	16	16	18	8	4	12	13	14	18		<b>151</b>
<b>2</b> BP Ford Abu Dhabi	8	14	10	8	3	18	18	10	16	15	10		<b>130</b>
<b>3</b> Stobart VK M-Sport	8	8	6	5	10	7	5	11	4	5	5		<b>74</b>
<b>4</b> Citroën Junior Team	5	2	4	0	2	5	6	5	4	4	5		<b>42</b>
<b>5</b> Munchi's Ford	-	-	3	4	5	0	6	-	2	1	2		<b>23</b>

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