

**2005 FIA Middle East Rally Championship  
Round 7 – Cyprus Troodos Rally (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October 2005)**

**LARNAKA PREPARES TO WELCOME TROODOS RALLY**

The seaside resort of Larnaca, located on Cyprus's southern coast, is getting ready to welcome the region's top drivers for this year's Troodos Rally, the penultimate round of the 2005 FIA Middle East Rally Championship (MERC).

With the countdown to the event in its final weeks, the organizers are hard at work to ensure that this is the greatest event yet. Organised by the Cyprus Automobile Association (CAA) with sponsorship from Chevrolet and Valvoline, the 2005 Troodos Rally is set for 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October, and promises a weekend packed full of action.

The move to Larnaca marks a major change of venue for this year's event, and organisers have already confirmed a host of new stages based in the countryside between Larnaca and Limassol. The competing crews will cover a total of 787.53km over the weekend, including 230km of special stage action. There will be 24 special stages in total. The special stages promise to be fast and exciting, providing plenty of easily-accessible thrills for spectators to enjoy.

The ceremonial start will take place on Larnaca's palm tree-lined seafront promenade (known as Phinikoudes) at 20:00hrs on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October. With around 50 teams from 7 different countries taking part, crews are expected from Cyprus, Qatar, the UAE, Lebanon, Kuwait, Germany, the UK, and beyond.

Nasser Al Attiyah will once again be competing in the event, hoping to add to his last two consecutive victories here. A driver of considerable repute, Al Attiyah has repeatedly proven his mettle, including winning the 2004 MERC title, and Production Car victory at the 2005 WRC Argentina Rally.

The service park for this year's Troodos Rally will be at Larnaca's GSZ football stadium, where spectators will have the chance to see crews working against the clock to keep their teams on the road. A public information office will be established at the GSZ football stadium providing live results during the event.

The Ceremonial Finish will be held at the Phinikoudes promenade at 1645hrs on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October.

**ENDS**

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2005

Troodos Rally Press Office