

Jeddah, 29 December 2020

## **TEKNE, with its GRAELION vehicle, at the DAKAR 2021 !**

TEKNE, an Italian company specialized in the design and production of special vehicles and electronic systems in the civil and military fields, will participate, with its GRAELION vehicle, at the DAKAR 2021, which will take place in Saudi Arabia from 3 to 15 January 2021.

GRAELION is the new heavy duty multifunctional 4x4 light truck designed and manufactured in Italy by TEKNE; 7.5 tons of total mass, 3-liter FPT engine, ZF manual or Allison automatic gearbox, Tekne 2-speed reducer/transfer case and double reduction portal axles, chassis frame with high-strength steel side members, Wabco braking system, off-road tires. GRAELION is at its ease in the most extreme working conditions and set-ups.

In exploring the challenging routes of the DAKAR 2021, the GRAELION will be in its standard configuration and equipped with a specific box to contain accessories and mechanical equipment, to be able to remain autonomous during the 15 days of competition in the midst of the Saudi desert.

At the helm of the GRAELION, two experts in the sector: BEPPE SIMONATO and CLAUDIO BERRO.

BEPPE SIMONATO has gained experience over the years with participations such as Rally Raid and extreme expeditions such as Overland. Beppe has always driven specific trucks for these heavy uses and will be able to give the GRAELION project important technical information for its development.

CLAUDIO BERRO has been involved in automotive and motor sports for over 35 years, not only as a rally codriver but also as a director of important teams. He managed Peugeot in the Rally and on tracks and for many years he was sporting director in Ferrari F1, before moving on to Maserati and Abarth. His management and sporting knowledge will be useful to analyze the data collected during the race for the eventual definition of a TEKNE sporting team.

The DAKAR 2021 will take place in Saudi Arabia, on a course in twelve stages, for a total of 7780 km. The race will cross inaccessible areas such as the sandy desert of Rub'al-khali, better known as the "Empty Quarter" similar to a lunar landscape, passing from the Red Sea to the Persian Gulf and from south to north of the country. 80% of the route is new to motor sport: it will be a more difficult edition than that of 2020, in particular for navigation. 560 drivers on 321 vehicles will participate in the race including 129 bike/quads, 124 car/ssvs, 42 trucks and 26 historic vehicles.

---

Contacts: [dakar@tekne.it](mailto:dakar@tekne.it)

web/social corporate links:

- [www.tekne.it](http://www.tekne.it)
- <https://www.facebook.com/TekneGroup>
- <https://www.instagram.com/tekne.it/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/tekne>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/tekne-srl>

