



Albert Llovera: *We are stranded on the highway.*

That's how Albert Llovera-Diego Vallejo (Abarth Grande Punto) finished the Finnish Rally of 2011. After going through the three special stages of the day, placed 9th in the Super 2000 World Rally Championship (S-WRC) classification, the engine of their Abarth broke down on the way back to the service park in Jyväskylä. Thus, the Finnish event of this year finished early for Albert and for the same reason as last year. Call it fate.

While he waited for his team to pick him up, Llovera explained the situation as follows: ***During the whole day we've had electric problems and at the end the engine had had enough. There's no doubt that we have tackled this rally with a very reduced team force. We've come to Jyväskylä with no engineer, only three mechanics and the team manager hasn't come either... the budget couldn't be stretched any more and, despite having great professionals working really hard, the result has been the worst we could imagine.*** As one might expect, the Abarth driver was feeling down because all the effort involved in preparing for the Finland 2011 Rally hadn't had the expected reward: ***It's true that we had gone over every single detail of the Finnish Rally. It's a wonderful event, but at the same time really fast, with average speeds of up to 120km/h amongst huge forests. Physically, it's very demanding, so not at all in keeping with my type of driving. That's probably the reason why we prepared for this rally more carefully than others, if that is even possible. At the end, it didn't pay off, nothing did.***

Now it's time for Llovera and his team to focus on the next event of the Super 2000 World Rally Championship (S-WRC), which will take place in three weeks time (19th, 20th and 21st August) in Germany.

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