

Acciona returns to Dakar Rally with electric car

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Driver Ariel Jatton (L) and co-driver Gaston Daniel Scazzuso of Argentina pose inside their Acciona Eco Power ahead of the 2016 Dakar Rally on January 1, 2016

Spanish energy firm Acciona said Monday it will compete in the Dakar Rally next month in Latin America for the third straight year with the only electric vehicle of the gruelling off-road race.

"Next January in Asuncion (Paraguay) we will once again cross the

starting line of the Dakar, and we will again be the only zero emissions vehicle," the company said in a statement.

"We compete in Dakar 2017 with an electric vehicle because we believe 100% in the potential of [renewable energy](#)," it added on the Facebook page of its Dakar Rally team.

Some 316 vehicles, including 83 cars and 146 motorbikes, are registered for the 39th Dakar Rally, which will be staged over nearly 9,000 kilometres (5,600 miles) from January 2-14 in Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay.

The race will set off from the Paraguayan capital of Asuncion, with race sporting director Marc Coma promising "the toughest edition in the history of South American rally-raiding".

Acciona entered its car in the 2015 Dakar Rally, making it the first zero-emissions [vehicle](#) to compete in the event, but it pulled out after just three days due to a navigation system malfunction.

The Team Acciona car, which features a lithium battery pack that is supplemented by solar panels, was disqualified from the 2016 Dakar Rally after it failed to make it to the start line for the 11th stage on time.



The map with the route of the 2017 Dakar Rally was revealed during a press conference in Paris on November 23, 2016

Founded in 1997, Madrid-based Acciona focuses on the development and management of renewable energy projects and infrastructure around the world.

It posted a net profit of 348 million euros (\$364 million) during the first nine months of the year, more than double the 166 million euros it made

during the same period last year.

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