

For immediate release, 15 January 2008

Solberg shines on front-wheel-drive debut

FIA World Rally Championship driver Henning Solberg has successfully contested his first ever event in a front-wheel-drive car by winning his class on the opening round of the Norwegian Rally Championship, the Mountain Rally, in a Ford Fiesta ST.

Contesting the event as a fun exercise and to refresh his pacenoting skills with co-driver Cato Menkerud, Solberg won his class convincingly to finish the event as the leading GpN Fiesta ST.

While this was a one-off event for Solberg due to commitments with his Stobart VK M-Sport Ford rally team, he did however enjoy his first experience of a front-wheel-drive car at race speed.

“This was a fun event and I am really happy to finish as top Fiesta because I have never even driven a front-wheel-drive rally car before,” said Solberg. “I borrowed the Fiesta from my friend and it was a really great car to drive and it was great to be able to win for Ford of Norway who have helped us a lot in 2007,” he added.

Overall the Norwegian finished in 15th place, coming home first in the two-wheel-drive category. This is the first time since 2003 that Solberg has been leading a class in the Norwegian Rally Championship.

“I am now focused on getting off to a good start with the Stobart team in the WRC as we head to Monte Carlo next week. These Fiestas are a lot of fun and for sure I would like to rally one again some day,” concluded Solberg.

For further information, please contact Fiesta Sporting Trophy International Co-ordinator, Kate Rhodes, on +44 (0) 7894 622 492 or krhodes@m-sport.co.uk. Copyright free images available at www.fiestasportingtrophy.com.