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Driving across Australia in a tractor

By Odile Evans on 07 October 2015



If you had to organise an 8,500km expedition through a tough and wild continent like Australia, you would probably choose a 4x4 off-road vehicle or a well-equipped jeep.

Instead, there are actually four McCormick Pro-Drive tractors heading across Australia in this extraordinary expedition. The drive is starting in Melbourne and aims to reach the legendary Ayers Rock (the sacred rock of the Aboriginal people) in the Northern Territory, taking in a distance of 8,500km and travelling through the States of Victoria, New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

BKT, Indian-based tyre manufacturer, and Argo Tractors are organising the expedition, which aims to discover unknown landscapes and cultures through agriculture.

Xtractor - around the world

In addition to the two McCormick X7 Pro-Drive tractors of Italian make, an Xtractor caravan will include three off-road vehicles for the TV crew. The team is composed of two specialised tractor drivers, two drivers for the off-road vehicles, two cameramen, a sound engineer for the TV shooting, a naturalist photographer and a physician.

The video production in UltraHD format will be done through three mobile units, four action cameras, a drone and a motorised steadycam to keep track of all expedition stages. A support vehicle, arranged as a mini-editing studio, will then produce TV and internet clips with the material picked up during the expedition.

It is a highly technological expedition, putting to a tough test both people and equipment - from tyres to motors.

Xtractor - Around the world will undoubtedly thrill television audiences, showing how extreme conditions are mastered by farmers and their equipment.