



**STAR DRIVER**

Name: Nicos Thomas  
Date of birth: 20.10.1987  
Nationality: Cypriot  
Started rallying: 2006  
Co-driver: Stéphane Prévot

### **Like father like son**

As soon as he turned 18, Nicos Thomas made it quite clear he wanted to follow his father Chris into the Cyprus Rally Championship. And the rally newcomer made some incredible early headway, winning his first ever rally, when he took to the top step of the podium at the end of the Larnaca Novice Rally in 2006. He continued to flatten the learning curve in his Group N Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution VI when he was second overall on his second event.

### **For six, read nine and more wins**

For the 2007 season, Nicos's first full year in the sport, he stepped up from his Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution VI, to a latest-specification Evolution IX. Once he'd completed his compulsory national military service in the summer of 2007, Nicos was ready to divide his time between a business management studies course and his ambitions in rallying. That focus on rallying soon began to pay dividends, with three victories in the season: the Tiger Rally, the Tulip Rally and the Palm Tree Rally. He also registered podium places on a brace of the island's toughest events, the East Safari Rally (where he was third) and the Tour of Cyprus, where he finished runner-up.

### **Local hero makes good**

The second round of the FIA Middle East Rally Championship of 2008 provided Nicos with his biggest moment of motor sport success to date; he won the Cyprus Rally, defeating the finest drivers in the Middle East series in his own backyard. He secured further FIA Middle East Rally Championship points with some notable overseas results, notably a fifth place on the Syrian

International Rally. Back home, there was more success, with wins on the Paralimni Rally and Rally Kokkinochorion.

### **Home success sets up a world of opportunity**

That Cyprus Rally, along with Pirelli Star Driver wins on the Troodos Rally and Dubai Rally, not only demonstrated his prowess behind the wheel of a rally car to his countrymen, but it also laid the foundations for his success on a much grander scale. It was the victory which paved the way to Nicos winning the FIA Middle East Rally Championship Pirelli Star Driver slot. With his 2009 programme secured courtesy of the FIA and Pirelli, Nicos is ready to widen his rallying horizons and take his family name beyond his native Mediterranean island. Before that first event, he will spend more time fine-tuning his own fitness in the gym and on the basketball court, where he likes to spend as much time as he can.

### **Career highlights**

2008 won the FIA Middle East Rally Championship Pirelli Star Driver place

2008 won the Cyprus Rally