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Kopecný dominates Europe's best in the ŠKODA Fabia R5

- › **Commanding lead for ŠKODA works team Jan Kopecný/Pavel Dresler after Barum Czech Rally Zlín's first leg**
- › **Focus on the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) title**
- › **"The car is working perfect once again"**

Zlín, 29 August 2015 – A week after his triumph in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2), Jan Kopecný (CZ) in his ŠKODA Fabia R5 is also dominating Europe's top drivers. After a commanding performance on home soil, the works driver and his co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZ) are the frontrunners for the final day of the 45th edition of Barum Czech Rally Zlín. With it, the guarantees of success for ŠKODA stay on track to win the title in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR). The fifth and penultimate race of the MČR season also forms a round of the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC).

"So far, our ERC guest appearance has been a lot of fun. Thousands of excited fans are lined up on the roads and we enjoy the beautiful yet demanding special stages. The car is working perfect once again. We hope for a good finish of the rally on Sunday," said Kopecný.

After his WRC 2 victory at Rally Germany, the 33-year-old quickly switched to driving on the narrow and bumpy roads in Moravia. With a win on the opening stage on Saturday the Czech rally hero took the overall lead and then left his opponents in the rearview mirror. At the end of the day he claimed wins on all eight special stages in his fabulous ŠKODA Fabia R5.

In his ŠKODA powerhouse, Kopecný kept his European opponents like current ERC leader Kajetan Kajetanowicz (PL) or runner-up Craig Breen (IRL) under control. Again, second-placed Václav Pech (CZ) was the main rival for the 2013 European champion and 2014 Asia Pacific Champion, who leads by 35.4 seconds ahead of Sunday's six special stages. So far the ŠKODA veteran has won all four rounds in the Czech national championship in the new Fabia R5.

Crowd favourite Kopecný has claimed Barum Czech Rally Zlín victories in 2009, 2011 and 2013. Chances are good to continue this biennial rhythm.



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The number for the Barum Czech Rally Zlín: 5

With five cars in the overall top 10, ŠKODA is the dominating brand after Barum Czech Rally Zlín's first leg. In his ŠKODA Fabia R5 works driver Jan Kopecký is leading the rally followed by the Czech duo Pavel Valoušek and Jan Černý in P5 and P7 in the successful ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000. Dutchman Hermen Kobus is ninth in the ŠKODA Fabia R5. Antonin Tlusták (CZ) is tenth.

Barum Czech Rally Zlín – Intermediate Result

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZ/CZ), ŠKODA Fabia R5	1:21:30.2 hrs.
2. Pech/Uhel (CZ/CZ), Mini John Cooper Works S2000	+ 0:35.4 min.
3. Kajetanowicz/Baran (PL/PL), Ford Fiesta R5	+ 0:58.2 min.
4. Lukyanuk/Arnautov (BY/RUS), Ford Fiesta R5	+ 1:30.4 min.
5. Valoušek/Havelková (CZ/CZ), ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000	+ 2:06.3 min.

Czech Rally Championship (MČR)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Rally Šumava Klatovy	24.04.-25.04.2015
Rally Český Krumlov	22.05.-23.05.2015
Rally Hustopeče	19.06.-20.06.2015
Rally Bohemia	10.07.-12.07.2015
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	28.08.-30.08.2015
Rally Příbram	02.10.-04.10.2015

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Media images:



ŠKODA at the Barum Czech Rally Zlín:

On Saturday, ŠKODA works duo Jan Kopecký (CZ) and Pavel Dresler (CZ) thrilled thousands of fans lined up on the roads.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at the Barum Czech Rally Zlín:

After four victories in four rallies, Kopecký and Dresler are in a good position to win the title in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR).

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been involved in the world of motorsport since 1901. The brand has taken home many trophies from the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and several famous races, such as the oldest rally in the world – the Monte Carlo, which has taken place annually since 1911.

The Fabia Super 2000 rally car is the most successful model in ŠKODA's 114-year history in motorsport. In 2014, ŠKODA won a hat-trick of titles in the Manufacturers' and Drivers' competitions in the APRC. The new reigning champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) achieved the momentous feat of becoming the first duo in history to win the Drivers' title in the ERC and then the APRC in consecutive years.

In the ERC, ŠKODA Motorsport took the title for the third time in a row in 2014, thanks to Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) with the ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000. Before Lappi, the Finn Juho Hänninen (2012) and Jan Kopecký (2013) had won the European title with the ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000.

Between 2009 and 2014, ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000 drivers won nearly 50 national and international titles.



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The International Automobile Federation FIA approved ŠKODA's new rally car - the Fabia R5 on 1 April, 2015. The new rally car was presented to the International Press in the Czech Republic on 15 April. The ŠKODA Fabia R5 celebrated its competitive début at the Šumava Rally, Czech Republic in 2015.

ŠKODA AUTO

- > is one of the longest-established vehicle production companies in the world. In 1895, the Czech headquarters in Mladá Boleslav began producing bicycles, followed by the production of motorbikes and cars.
- > currently offers the following models in the range: Citigo, Fabia, Roomster, Rapid, Octavia, Yeti and Superb.
- > in 2014 delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide for the first time in a single year.
- > has belonged to Volkswagen since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful automotive groups in the world. ŠKODA, in association with the Group, independently manufactures and develops vehicles, as well as components, engines and gear transmissions.
- > operates at three locations in the Czech Republic, produces in China, Russia, Slovakia and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- > employs over 25,900 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.