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New co-driver for ŠKODA works driver Pontus Tidemand

- › Jonas Andersson is the new navigator at the side of the APRC champion
- › Andersson most recently racked up successes in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) with Mads Østberg
- › Michal Hrabánek: "A great addition to the ŠKODA Motorsport racing family"

Mladá Boleslav, 4 December 2015 – Asia-Pacific champion Pontus Tidemand (S) will tackle the next rally season for ŠKODA with a new co-driver by his side. The works driver Tidemand will be joined by Jonas Andersson of Sweden as his well-known navigator. Andersson is considered to be one of the most experienced co-drivers in the world and scored many successes with Mads Østberg (N) in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) in recent years.

"Jonas Andersson is a great addition to the ŠKODA Motorsport racing family. A man with his level of experience can only have a positive influence on the development of Pontus Tidemand, who had such a successful first year with us," says ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek. Tidemand, who will turn 25 next week, made it onto the podium in ten of his eleven starts in two international championships in his debut season for ŠKODA. He made it into the top three of the WRC 2 category of the FIA World Rally Championship on four occasions. The climax was his victory at Rally Spain.

In the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), Tidemand took the top spot five times and came second once, thereby comfortably clinching the fourth title in succession for ŠKODA. Tidemand and his former co-driver Emil Axelsson (S) will be officially crowned champions at the FIA gala in Paris on Friday. Axelsson plans to now rise to new challenges. "Emil and I had a great year together. His skills and his character were important factors in our shared success. I'm therefore sad to see our partnership come to an end and I wish Emil all the best for the future! On the other hand, I am thrilled that Jonas will be taking his place, as he has such a wealth of experience. I'm really looking forward to working with him," says Tidemand.

Jonas Andersson is a familiar face in the world of rallying. He began his career as co-driver to Per-Gunnar 'P-G' Andersson (S) in 2002. That same year, the duo won the Norwegian Championship, then followed this up with a win in the Swedish Championship a year later. Other highlights include two title wins in the Junior World Rally Championship (JWRC). At the end of this partnership in 2009, Andersson became Mads Østberg's co-driver, and has racked up some spectacular successes since then. In the ultimate discipline of the WRC, Andersson played his part in no less than 14 podium finishes, including victory at Rally Portugal in 2012.

"I was looking for some new challenges. So when a position alongside Pontus became available, it was obviously the perfect opportunity for me. I can hardly wait to get into



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the ŠKODA Fabia R5 and get down to work with Pontus. I've known him for many years, and that's a major advantage when it comes to making things work as a team quickly. We are definitely aiming for the top," says Andersson.

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New co-driver for ŠKODA works driver Pontus Tidemand

The Swede Jonas Andersson will be the well-known navigator alongside ŠKODA works driver Pontus Tidemand (S).

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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.

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, 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.