



ŠKODA Motorsport Press Release, Page 1 of 4

One-two: ŠKODA Motorsport enjoys perfect start to the season in the Czech Rally Championship

- › Defending champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler repeat last year's victory at the Rally Šumava Klatovy – second place for Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson
- › Thousands of fans thrilled by triumphant success of ŠKODA drivers and ŠKODA Park
- › Michal Hrabánek: "A great start to the season in the home of our brand"

Klatovy, 30 April 2016 – ŠKODA Motorsport enjoyed a perfect start to this season's Czech Rally Championship (MČR) with a highly-acclaimed one-two. Thousands of fans at the 51st Rally Šumava Klatovy celebrated the win for defending champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ), who repeated last year's success. The second ŠKODA works duo of Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (S/S), who were making a guest appearance in the national championship, finished runners-up, just 26.1 seconds behind the winners. The first round of the 2016 MČR season was a triumphant success for the ŠKODA brand: the Czech car maker occupied all three spots on the podium, one year after the successful Fabia R5 made its debut.

"That is a great start to the season in the home of our brand. It was at the Rally Šumava Klatovy one year ago that Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler claimed the first win with our ŠKODA Fabia R5 on the car's debut. The fact that our new rally car was successful across the board this time is confirmation of the great work put in by everyone in the ŠKODA team," said ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek. Pavel Valoušek/Veronika Havelková (CZ/CZ), also at the wheel of a ŠKODA Fabia R5, came home third behind the two works duos.

In glorious sunshine, the rally in and around the Bohemian Forest opened with a stage with for ŠKODA's biggest rival Václav Pech (CZ). However, the green, white and black cars of the ŠKODA Motorsport works team dominated the remaining eleven special stages. Experienced 34-year-old Kopecký won stage two with a stunning time to take the lead, and never looked back. After about 150 kilometres against the clock on the narrow asphalt routes, the enthusiastic rally fans celebrated Kopecký's third victory at the iconic rally, having previously won in 2012 and 2015.

"A superb win in great weather, and the fans were thrilled – you cannot ask for more. Our Fabia R5 was once again a wonderfully quick and reliable tool. However, Pontus made us work pretty hard for the win," said Jan Kopecký. He won seven special stages, his Swedish team-mate four. "It was a great battle with Jan, with a worthy winner. This rally in the Czech Republic was huge fun, and the perfect preparation for the coming challenges in the World Rally Championship," commented Asia-Pacific champion



ŠKODA Motorsport Press Release, Page 2 of 4

Tidemand. From 19 to 22 May, Tidemand/Andersson and Kopecký/Dresler will line up in the WRC 2 class at the Portuguese round of the World Rally Championship.

The opening race of the MČR around Klatovy was also a great success for ŠKODA Czech Republic. In bright sunshine, thousands of fans poured into the ŠKODA Park in the service park in Janovice, where visitors were treated to an attractive support programme. "ŠKODA made a perfect start to the season in the MČR – both on and off the stages. I would like to thank the many visitors who flocked to the ŠKODA Park and showed such a huge interest in our successful models," said Luboš Vlček, head of Importer ŠKODA Czech Republic.

The number for the Rally Šumava Klatovy: 8

One year ago, Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) were at the wheel of the ŠKODA Fabia R5 when the car made its competitive debut at the Rally Šumava Klatovy. Just one year later, the field featured eight (!) of the new rally cars. As well as the works team's two high-tech, four-wheel drive powerhouses, a further six drivers from customer teams also put their faith in the Fabia R5. At the end of the rally, the top ten in the overall standings included six ŠKODAs. As well as the four Fabia R5s, one driver was underway in each of the predecessor models, the Fabia Super 2000 and the Fabia WRC.

Rally Šumava Klatovy – Final Overall Classification

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZ/CZ), ŠKODA Fabia R5	1:19:05.9 hrs
2. Tidemand/Andersson (S/S), ŠKODA Fabia R5	+ 0:26.1 min
3. Valoušek/Havelková (CZ/CZ), ŠKODA Fabia R5	+ 1:05.8 min
4. Černý/ Černožský (CZ/CZ), ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000	+ 1:36.4 min
5. Pech/Uhel (CZ/CZ), Porsche 997 GT3	+ 1:47.3 min

Czech Rally Championship (MČR)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Rally Šumava Klatovy	29.04.–30.04.2016
Rally Český Krumlov	27.05.–28.05.2016
Rally Hustopeče	17.06.–18.06.2016
Rally Bohemia	02.07.–03.07.2016
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	26.08.–28.08.2016
Rally Příbram	30.09.–01.10.2016



ŠKODA Motorsport Press Release, Page 3 of 4

For more information:

David Haidinger, Communications Motorsport

Ph. +420 604 292 188

david.haidinger@skoda-auto.cz

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

ŠKODA Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter

Media images:



ŠKODA at the Rally Šumava Klatovy

As in 2015, the ŠKODA works duo Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler claimed a highly-acclaimed victory in the Fabia R5 at the opening rally in their native Czech Republic.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at the Rally Šumava Klatovy

The Swedish ŠKODA works duo of Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson finished runners-up at the opening round of the season, as they did in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2).

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport Overview:

ŠKODA has been on the motorsport scene since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include numerous title wins in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), as well as the victory in the European Touring Car Championship in 1981. ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Monte Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

In 2015, ŠKODA celebrated four victories in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) with their new ŠKODA Fabia R5 rally car. The high-tech 4x4 was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. In the ŠKODA Fabia R5's very first season, factory duo Pontus Tidemand/Emil Axelsson (S/S) secured the fourth APRC title in a row for ŠKODA. In addition, the brand claimed five national titles with their new winning model.

ŠKODA's new Fabia R5 proudly continues the brand's long tradition in motorsport. Its predecessor, the Fabia Super 2000, was the most successful model in ŠKODA's 115-year motorsport history. With the 4x4

ŠKODA Media Services:

<http://media.skoda-auto.com>, media@skoda-auto.cz

ŠKODA AUTO a.s., Tř. V. Klementa 869,
293 60 Mladá Boleslav, Czech Republic

120 YEARS ŠKODA AUTO
SIMPLY CLEVER
SINCE 1895





ŠKODA Motorsport Press Release, Page 4 of 4

from Mladá Boleslav, factory duo Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) achieved the historic feat of becoming the first duo in history to win the drivers' title in the ERC and the APRC in consecutive years. Between 2009 and 2014, ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000 drivers won a total of 50 national and international titles around the world.

In 2016, the factory teams Pontus Tidem and/Jonas Andersson (S/S), Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler and Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (F/F) are competing with the ŠKODA Fabia R5 in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2).

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.
- > delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide in 2015.
- > 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 such as engines and gear transmissions.
- > operates at three locations in the Czech Republic. It also produces in China, Russia, Slovakia and India, mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- > employs more than 26,600 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.