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## The new ŠKODA Fabia R 5 excites experienced rally driver Jan Kopecký

- > ŠKODA presses ahead with the development of the Fabia R 5
- > Works driver Kopecký to test the car throughout Europe in coming weeks
- > Kopecký: "We will produce another top-class rally car"

**Mladá Boleslav, 25 February 2015 – Even experienced rally driver Jan Kopecký (CZ) is excited about the new ŠKODA Fabia R 5. After his historic double in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), assisting with the development of the new rally car is a new challenge for the 33-year-old from the Czech Republic. SKODA works driver Kopecký and his co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZ) are important members of ŠKODA Motorsport's test team.**

"At ŠKODA, a lot of engineers from a wide range of different countries are working perfectly together in a very good team. I am confident that our guys will produce another top-class rally car. My experience of the new Fabia R 5 is definitely very positive so far," said Kopecký. The Czech driver spent the period around his 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday on 28<sup>th</sup> January testing ŠKODA's latest rally hopeful on various different surfaces. More tests at the wheel of the new Fabia R 5 are planned throughout Europe for the coming days and weeks.

In compliance with FIA regulations, the new racing car is equipped with a 1.6-litre turbo engine. Kopecký is impressed by the four-wheel drive car's powerful acceleration: "It is great fun to drive this completely new car, with its powerful turbo engine. You obviously have to adapt your driving style, because it is quite a switch from the two-litre induction engine in the Fabia Super 2000." The Fabia Super 2000 is the most successful rally car in ŠKODA's 114-year motorsport history and has helped Kopecký to his historic triumphs.

Kopecký backed up his European title in 2013 by winning the continental championship in the Asia-Pacific region the following year. "Those were two fantastic years. The highlight was undoubtedly 2014, when we were able to gain valuable experience on gravel between Australia and China." Competing in the key ŠKODA market of China, Kopecký/Dresler improved the Czech car manufacturer's flawless record to six wins from six rallies and completed a hat-trick of titles for ŠKODA in the process.

Jan Kopecký's plans for the first half of this year focus on developing the new Fabia R 5. The rally car, which is based on the new production model of the Fabia, is already generating a huge amount of interest from customers. The homologation of the ŠKODA Fabia R 5 by the International Automobile Federation FIA is planned for mid-2015. Kopecký, who made his debut for the ŠKODA Motorsport team over a decade ago, is already looking forward to the new, homologated car: "The new Fabia R 5 has everything it needs to continue the success story of ŠKODA in motorsport."



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### Video: The new ŠKODA Fabia R 5 excites experienced rally driver Jan Kopecký

Jan Kopecký (CZ) and his co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZ) test the new rally car on all surfaces.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### The new ŠKODA Fabia R 5 excites experienced rally driver Jan Kopecký

Asia-Pacific champion Jan Kopecký (CZ) is impressed by the new Fabia R 5.

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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





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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 a total of 28 national titles worldwide.

As of 2015, the ŠKODA Fabia R 5 will be taking over the reins from the Super 2000 and continuing ŠKODA's success story in motorsport. A global audience was given a first glimpse of ŠKODA's future rally car with the R 5 concept car at the 2014 Essen Motor Show.

## 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 has seven passenger car models: Citigo, Fabia, Roomster/Praktik, Rapid, Octavia, Yeti and Superb.
- > in 2014 delivered more than one million vehicles to customers around the world 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. It also manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India, mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- > employs over 25,800 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.