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New ŠKODA Fabia R5 set to make its customer racing debut

- › **First high-tech powerhouse delivered to Raimund Baumschlager's team**
- › **Baumschlager: "The Fabia R5 will be the best car in its class"**
- › **Head of customer racing, Marcela Janatová: "Very big interest in our new Fabia R5"**

Mladá Boleslav, 29 April 2015 – The new ŠKODA Fabia R5 is much sought-after on the global customer racing scene. The first high-tech powerhouse has recently been delivered to Raimund Baumschlager (A). The twelve-time Austrian rally champion will make his first outing with the new car at the Wechselland Rally on 1 and 2 May. When the ŠKODA Fabia R5 made its international debut at the Rally Šumava Klatovy last weekend, the result was a dominant victory. The ŠKODA works team's car, driven by Asia-Pacific Champion Jan Kopecký (CZ), proved to be both fast and reliable.

"Customer racing is far more than a mere business model for ŠKODA. The entire team is putting its heart and soul into every one of our rally cars. It makes no difference whether that car is a works car or a customer car. Our customers all over the world have come to value this passion and the high degree of technical expertise within our brand," said ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek.

"There is great interest in our new ŠKODA Fabia R5 on the customer racing scene. After the successful homologation of our new rally car, we have seen another dramatic rise in the number of enquiries," said Marcela Janatová, the new head of the ŠKODA Motorsport customer programme. "We will strive to fulfil the requests of most customers before the end of the year. Even this spring, cars are being delivered to Germany, Italy, Belgium and Portugal," Janatová continued.

The first customer behind the wheel of the four-wheel drive car will be experienced rally driver Baumschlager. The 55-year-old driver has been part of the test team for the new ŠKODA Fabia R5 in recent months. "It is an excellent rally car, which is outstanding to drive on any surface," praised Baumschlager. "I am sure that the Fabia R5 will be the best car in its class."

The Baumschlager BRR-Team had already purchased several Fabia Super 2000s from ŠKODA Motorsport and is again one of the most important customers to purchase the Fabia R5. Come mid-May, Fabian Kreim (D) will also make his first appearance in the new car for ŠKODA AUTO Deutschland in the German Rally Championship (DRM).

As well as an ultra-modern car, anyone purchasing the new Fabia R5 also receives technical support from the ŠKODA Motorsport team. "This way, both sides can share their knowhow and benefit from each other in the long term," said Hrabánek. The basic race-



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ready version of the new ŠKODA Fabia R5 will cost 180,000 Euros in accordance with the regulations of the International Automobile Federation (FIA).

For that price, customers receive a spectacular four-wheel drive racing car, powered by a 1.6-litre turbo engine in accordance with FIA regulations. As well as changes to the chassis design, this is the largest change compared to the two-litre naturally aspirated engine in the Fabia Super 2000. The new car also features a new five-speed sequential gearbox and McPherson struts.

Baumschlager: "The Fabia R5 is even more accurate to drive and boasts mighty torque thanks to its turbo engine. It is just a brilliant rally car, which will continue ŠKODA's success story."

For more information:

Karel Pokorný, Communications Motorsport

Tel. +420 604 292 191

Karel.Pokorny1@skoda-auto.cz

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

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Raimund Baumschlager (A) will be the first customer to enjoy the new ŠKODA Fabia R5.

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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.

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

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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 a total of 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 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 25,900 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.