



ŠKODA Motorsport, Page 1 of 5

Home outing at the Rally Bohemia: Two ŠKODA works teams start in the new Fabia R5

- › Jan Kopecký sets sights on fourth win; guest appearance from European champion Esapekka Lappi after the historic first win for the new Fabia R5 in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)
- › Michal Hrabánek: "We are pleased to present the new Fabia R5 live on our doorstep"
- › Rally Bohemia forms a highlight of the Czech Rally Championship for ŠKODA

Mladá Boleslav, 8 July 2015 – Emotional home event for the new ŠKODA Fabia R5: Two ŠKODA works teams will line up in the new rally car at the Rally Bohemia, in the region around the ŠKODA headquarters in Mladá Boleslav. After three wins from three starts in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR), ŠKODA driver Jan Kopecký (CZ) and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZ) are looking to continue their winning run. European champions Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) will make a guest appearance in Bohemia after her maiden win for the ŠKODA Fabia R5 in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2). The 42nd Rally Bohemia takes place from 10th to 12th July.

"We are delighted the ŠKODA employees and fans at home, in the heartland of our company, can finally watch our new Fabia R5 in rally action," said ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek. "The Rally Bohemia is a special rally for ŠKODA. This is reason enough to line up with two works teams. We want to back up the success the Fabia R5 has enjoyed so far, and to squeeze a bit more potential out of the car," Hrabánek continued.

ŠKODA is unbeaten since 2009 at the Rally Bohemia. This year, the teams face 151.65 kilometres, the majority of which are on narrow asphalt roads. Its biggest threat ought once again to be arch rival Václav Pech (CZ), as he was at the first MČR races.

Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) arrive in Bohemia at the top of the MČR table, undefeated after an impressive hat-trick of wins. "We are hugely looking forward to the Rally Bohemia. It will be a hard-fought battle with Václav Pech, but I am sure Esapekka Lappi will also have a say in who wins," said Kopecký. "There will be a lot of ŠKODA employees watching the race, so we obviously want to put on a really good display." The 33-year-old and co-driver Pavel Dresler could complete a hat-trick of wins at the Rally Bohemia.

European champion Esapekka Lappi can hardly wait to get started in Bohemia. "We want to put on a good show for the many ŠKODA fans. After a lengthy spell away from asphalt, these will be an exciting couple of days for us and a welcome change from our WRC starts so far, which have been on gravel," said Lappi. Last year, Lappi tested the



ŠKODA Motorsport, Page 2 of 5

new 1.6-litre turbo engine for the new Fabia R5 under race conditions for the first time at the Rally Bohemia.

As well as top-class rallying, the Rally Bohemia also offers an extensive side programme for fans. As in previous years, ŠKODA is main sponsor of the event.

This season, the new ŠKODA Fabia R5 has proven to be both fast and reliable. The car currently has three wins in the MČR and five podiums from three starts in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2 class) to its name. The works crews Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN) and Pontus Tidemand/Emil Axelsson (S/S) claimed a one-two for ŠKODA at Rally Poland last weekend.

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

Did you know ...

... ŠKODA has enjoyed five wins in a row at the Rally Bohemia recently? Finland's Juho Hänninen triumphed in a Fabia Super 2009 and 2010, while Belgian Freddy Loix won in 2011. There was no official final result in 2012, before Jan Kopecký was victorious in 2013 and 2014.

... ŠKODA actually finished one-two-three last year? Kopecký finished first, ahead of Italy's Umberto Scandola and Sepp Wiegand (D).

... the Rally Bohemia was initially called the Rally ŠKODA, from 1974 to 1985? The Czech automobile manufacturer launched the rally in order to test the quality and stamina of its models under extreme conditions. The first rally, 40 years ago, was 1,800 kilometres long. The special stages were spread throughout the whole of Czechoslovakia. 152 teams took part, 72 of which were from abroad.

.... the Rally Bohemia formed part of the European Rally Championship and the European Rally Cup for many years? Jan Kopecký, now a ŠKODA works driver, won the event in 2004, 2005 and 2013.



ŠKODA Motorsport, Page 3 of 5

... the Rally Bohemia also features a competition for vintage rally cars? The race is making its first appearance in the FIA European Championship for Historic Cars.

... former ŠKODA works driver Juho Hänninen (FIN) is making a special comeback in Mladá Boleslav? He will appear in the Rally Bohemia Legend event, which is hugely popular with spectators. Among Hänninen's successes for ŠKODA were titles in the 2010 Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), 2011 Super 2000 World Rally Championship (SWRC), and the 2012 FIA European Rally Championship (ERC).

... rally fans can find fascinating information online at www.skoda-motorsport.com ? ŠKODA's innovative offering combines interesting facts and background stories with great photos and social media content.

... Mladá Boleslav is not only the home of the headquarters of ŠKODA, but also has a tower that leans like the one in Pisa nearby? The emblem of the castle ruins in Michalovice was once knocked off balance by treasure seekers.

For more information:

Karel Pokorný, Communications Motorsport

Tel. +420 604 292 191

Karel.Pokorny1@skoda-auto.cz

<http://www.skoda-auto.com/en/motorsport>

ŠKODA Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter

Media images:



ŠKODA at the Rally Bohemia

Jan Kopecký (CZ) and Pavel Dresler (CZ) line up in the new Fabia R5 in the 2015 Czech Rally Championship (MČR) on the back of a hat-trick of victories.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO

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

Available on the
Google play

Available on the
App Store



Since 2008, all
evaluated
ŠKODA models
have received
a 5-star safety
rating from
Euro NCAP.





ŠKODA Motorsport, Page 4 of 5



ŠKODA at the Rally Bohemia

European champions Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) are making a guest appearance at ŠKODA's home race in the Czech national championship.

[Download](#)

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.

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 Motorsport, Page 5 of 5

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.