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## Rally Bohemia: ŠKODA continues winning streak with the Fabia R5 at home event

- › Jan Kopecký wins at the Rally Bohemia for the third time in a row
- › Kopecký unbeaten in the Fabia R5 in four races in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR)
- › Esapekka Lappi wins five stages on guest appearance in the national championship
- › Michal Hrabánek: "It's great that we were able to make our fans happy"

**Mladá Boleslav, 12 July 2015 – Home advantage exploited, thousands of fans delighted: ŠKODA continued its winning streak with the new Fabia R5. Jan Kopecký (CZ) and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZ) celebrated an acclaimed victory at the 42nd Rally Bohemia in the region of ŠKODA's headquarters in Mladá Boleslav. This sees the duo remain unbeaten in the fourth race of the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) and extend their lead at the top of the table even further. The second ŠKODA works team Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) was convincing with five stage wins just one week after the historic victory for the Fabia R5 in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2).**

"It's great that we were able to make so many fans happy with the Fabia R5 right on our doorstep! The Rally Bohemia is always a special race for ŠKODA – which makes the win even more special," said ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek. This makes ŠKODA unbeaten at its home race since 2009. Hrabánek: "Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler have proved once again that they are real experts at this rally."

The experienced duo won at the Rally Bohemia for the third time in a row, Kopecký has now won ŠKODA's home race a total of five times. But the victory didn't come easy to him at the start; until the fifth special stage he was embroiled in a dramatic duel for tenths of a second with his team-mate Lappi. However, on the sixth stage, the Finn suffered tyre damage and lost over two minutes while he changed the tyre.

"Esapekka really didn't make it easy for me. It's a shame that we couldn't continue our duel," said Kopecký, who had his arch-rival Václav Pech (CZ) firmly under control this time. 33-year-old Kopecký was delighted that he was able to give something special to the thousands of fans with his third win in a row at the highlight of the Czech Rally Championship: "It's so great to feel the enthusiasm of the fans at ŠKODA's home event. It's even better that we won again with our new Fabia R5."

ŠKODA's new turbo four-wheel drive was the fastest car on all twelve special stages. Kopecký got seven best times and Lappi got four. On the final stage, both ŠKODA works drivers shared the best time. Despite his tyre damage, European Champion Lappi worked his way up into fourth place in the overall standings by the end of the rally. "It's a





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shame, without the problems, we would have been able to do better. But it was so much fun driving on asphalt in our Fabia R5 in front of these fans once again," said Lappi.

After ŠKODA's home rally comes his personal home event: The Rally Finland will be held from 30 July to 2 August in the FIA WRC. Another chance to continue the run of success for the new Fabia R5. To date, the works team has already amassed four wins in the MČR and five podium positions, including one win, in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2 classification).

## The number of the Rally Bohemia: 6

ŠKODA has now won the Rally Bohemia six times in a row. In 2009 and 2010, Finland's Juho Hänninen won in the Fabia Super 2000, Belgium's Freddy Loix was victorious in 2011. Since there was no official final result in 2012, Jan Kopecký's wins followed at the events in 2013, 2014 and this weekend.

## Rally Bohemia – Final result

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZ/CZ), ŠKODA Fabia R5	1:20:33.0 hrs
2. Pech/Uhel (CZ/CZ), Mini John Cooper Works S2000	+ 0:51.0 min.
3. Vojtěch/Michal (CZ/CZ), Peugeot 206 WRC	+ 2:15.0 min.
4. Lappi/Ferm (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA Fabia R5	+ 2:20.3 min.
5. Valoušek/Havelková (CZ/CZ), ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000	+ 2:24.5 min.

## 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
<b>Rally Bohemia</b>	<b>10.07.–12.07.2015</b>
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	28.08.–30.08.2015
Rally Příbram	02.10.–04.10.2015





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### ŠKODA at the Rally Bohemia

Jan Kopecký (CZ) and Pavel Dresler (CZ) celebrated their fourth win in the new Fabia R5 and thereby remain unbeaten in the 2015 Czech Rally Championship (MČR).

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at the Rally Bohemia

European Champions Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) won five special stages on their guest appearance in the Czech national championship.

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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

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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 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, 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.

