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## ŠKODA driver Kopecký extends his lead in the Rally Germany

- › An advantage of over four minutes for Jan Kopecký and his co-driver Pavel Dresler
- › ŠKODA Fabia R5 the fastest car in WRC 2: 17 best times on 17 stages
- › ŠKODA drivers delight thousands of fans on the legendary Panzerplatte

**Trier, 22 August 2015 – ŠKODA works duo Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) head into the final day of the Rally Germany as commanding front-runners in the WRC 2 standings. In glorious sunshine on the second day of the asphalt classic in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2), the two Czechs extended their lead to more than four minutes and delighted thousands of fans on the stages on the legendary Panzerplatte. The ŠKODA Fabia R5, with best times on all 17 of the special stages completed so far, is the superior car in the WRC 2 field.**

"I really enjoy every metre in this car. We tried to defend our lead cleverly today without taking too many risks," said Kopecký. As on Friday, when he got all eight of the best times in the WRC 2, the 33-year-old was extremely fast. In particular, he demonstrated his top performance on the 45.61 kilometres of the longest stage of the Rally Germany on the military site Panzerplatte.

"We had one or two major drifts. But I expect that the fans loved that," said Kopecký with a smile. And it wasn't only the fans: The ŠKODA development board member Dr. Frank Welsch was at Panzerplatte and the service park in Trier to get a feel for the performance of the ŠKODA Motorsport team.

The current championship front-runners Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) also showed their class again on Saturday, after their mistake on day one of rallying put paid to any chance of them winning the overall standings. Lappi topped the time sheets in WRC 2 a total of six times on Saturday. "After the bitter experience on Friday we tried to look forward and put in great performances," said the Finn. He won the two previous WRC rallies in Poland and Finland on gravel. Only 57 timed kilometres, which must be mastered on four stages on Sunday, stand between the ŠKODA Fabia R5 and its debut win on asphalt in the WRC.

Also in on the action in ŠKODA's new rally car are two customer racing teams. Reigning WRC 2 champion and Dakar winner Nasser Al-Attiyah (Q) worked his way up into fourth place. 22-year-old ŠKODA AUTO Deutschland driver Fabian Kreim (D) also hinted at his great potential with times in the top 5.



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## Number of the day for the Rally Germany: 45.61

That was the distance of the Panzerplatte stage, which had to be driven twice on Saturday. The track on a military site is not only one of the longest in the WRC, but also one of the most famous. There are 103 changes of direction in total on the 45.61 kilometres. The cracked asphalt and concrete streets are lined with massive menhirs, which are a barrier that withstands even tanks. The best times on the two passes went to the two ŠKODA works drivers Jan Kopecký and Esapekka Lappi.

## Rally Germany – WRC 2 standings

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZ/CZ), ŠKODA Fabia R5	3:05:05.8 hrs.
2. Camilli/Veillas (F/F), Ford Fiesta R5	+ 4:01.5 min.
3. Giordano/Sarreaud (F/F), Citroën DS3 S2000	+ 5:39.8 min.
4. Al-Attiyah/Baumel (Q/F), ŠKODA Fabia R5	+ 6:20.1 min.
5. Suninen/Markkula (FIN/FIN), Ford Fiesta R5	+ 6:21.9 min.

## FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Rally Monte Carlo	22.01.–25.01.2015
Rally Sweden	12.02.–15.02.2015
Rally Mexico	05.03.–08.03.2015
Rally Argentina	23.04.–26.04.2015
Rally Portugal	21.05.–24.05.2015
Rally Italy	11.06.–14.06.2015
Rally Poland	02.07.–05.07.2015
<b>Rally Finland</b>	<b>30.07.–02.08.2015</b>
Rally Germany	20.08.–23.08.2015
Rally Australia	10.09.–13.09.2015
Rally France	01.10.–04.10.2015
Rally Spain	22.10.–25.10.2015
Rally Great Britain	12.11.–15.11.2015



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### ŠKODA at the Rally Germany:

The Czechs Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) extended their lead in the ŠKODA Fabia R5.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at the Rally Germany:

Championship front-runners Esapekka Lappi (FIN) and Janne Ferm (FIN) were convincing on day two with six best times.

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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 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.



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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.