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Kopecný clinches hat-trick of wins for the ŠKODA Fabia R5 in the WRC 2

- › After Poland and Finland, ŠKODA is victorious with its new rally car at the Rally Germany in WRC 2
- › ŠKODA Fabia R5 shines with best times on 19 stages
- › Michal Hrabánek: "The first WRC 2 win on asphalt is particularly special"

Trier, 23 August 2015 – With his win at the Rally Germany, asphalt king Jan Kopecný (CZ) clinched the hat-trick of wins for the ŠKODA Fabia R5 in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2). There was also a first: 33-year-old Kopecný and his co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZ) celebrated the debut WRC 2 win on asphalt for ŠKODA's new rally car. And with a large lead of more than four minutes after 374.43 timed kilometres.

"Jan Kopecný, Pavel Dresler and the entire ŠKODA Motorsport team have done a superb job. The first WRC 2 win on asphalt is particularly special. Firstly, because after the two wins on gravel in Poland and Finland, we have now proven that our new ŠKODA Fabia R5 is a winning car on any surface. Secondly, because Germany is the most important market for ŠKODA in Europe. However, this win is simply the motivation for us to continue to work hard for future successes," summed up Michal Hrabánek, Motorsport Director at ŠKODA. ŠKODA development board member Dr. Frank Welsch was also delighted by the team's performance, after experiencing it first hand on the stages and at the service park in Trier.

In Kopecný/Dresler he witnessed a ŠKODA works team that drove in a league of its own in the WRC 2 at the Rally Germany. The successful duo took the lead on the first stage and continued to extend it on the narrow asphalt roads through picturesque vineyards. The reigning Asia-Pacific champion was in control at all times and fascinated tens of thousands of fans in glorious sunshine on the dreaded stages. "We are delighted with this win! That was a rally to enjoy in a fantastic car. Once again our ŠKODA Fabia R5 proved what an outstanding rally car it is," said the old hand.

After four wins in four races, Kopecný is on track to win the title in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR). Kopecný will be back in action in the national championship at the Barum Czech Rally Zlin this coming weekend. Kopecný: "We are already really looking forward to the Barum Rally with thousands of enthusiastic rally fans in our home country."

The second ŠKODA works team of Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) shone at the ninth event of the FIA World Rally Championship season with seven best times in WRC 2. A mistake on the second special stage at the Rally Germany put paid to any hopes of a top result. "After this mistake we were able to gain valuable experience here. We will be back on the attack in the next races and hope to do better," said Lappi.



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The new front-runner in the WRC 2 championship standings is reigning champion and Dakar winner Nasser Al-Attiyah (Q). On his debut in the ŠKODA Fabia R5 in the area of customer racing, the top driver worked his way up into fourth place in the classification after an impressive chase. The 22-year-old ŠKODA AUTO Deutschland driver Fabian Kreim (D) also hinted at his talent with top times in the Fabia R5.

Number of the day for the Rally Germany: 19

The ŠKODA Fabia R5 was the fastest car in the WRC 2 field on 19 of 21 special stages at the Rally Germany. Winner Jan Kopecký got the best time on eleven of the stages, the second works driver Esapekka Lappi was number 1 seven times. The other best time went to the reigning WRC 2 champion and Dakar winner Nasser Al-Attiyah (Q), who was in action in ŠKODA's new rally as a customer for the first time.

Rally Germany – final standings WRC 2

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZ/CZ), ŠKODA Fabia R5	3:47:18.8 hrs.
2. Camilli/Veillas (F/F), Ford Fiesta R5	+ 4:13.8 min.
3. Giordano/Sarreaud (F/F), Citroën DS3 S2000	+ 6:14.7 min.
4. Al-Attiyah/Baumel (Q/F), ŠKODA Fabia R5	+ 6:36.5 min.
5. Breen/Scott (IRL/GB), Peugeot 208 T16 R5	+ 6:54.0 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
Rally Finland	30.07.–02.08.2015
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:

Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) celebrated a commanding win in the ŠKODA Fabia R5.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at the Rally Germany:

The second ŠKODA works duo Esapekka Lappi (FIN) and Janne Ferm (FIN) got six best times overall.

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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.