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## WRC 2: Lappi in second place ahead of the final day of the Rally Corsica

- › **Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm shine with a best time in the ŠKODA Fabia R5 on Saturday, move up a place and keep their hopes of winning alive**
- › **Despite sunshine on the Mediterranean island, one of the special stages had to be cancelled**
- › **Lappi: "We drove taking controlled risks"**

**Corte/France, 3 October 2015 – Esapekka Lappi and Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) in the ŠKODA Fabia R5 head into the final day of the Rally Corsica in second place. The ŠKODA works duo shone in the two stages on Saturday with a best time in the sunshine, moved up a place in the WRC 2 classification and head into the final three special stages on Sunday with victory still possible. Just like at the start of the eleventh event of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) season, one of the three planned sections on day two had to be cancelled in the wake of a storm.**

"We drove taking controlled risks again today. It is incredibly difficult to get used to the changing grip levels on the tracks. The aim now is to make it to the end of this challenging rally safely," said Lappi. At least the sun was back in the sky on Saturday, after a storm on Friday resulted in road damage and landslides throughout the Mediterranean island. Despite the improved weather conditions, the "rally of 10,000 turns" was still a real challenge on day two due to alternating dry and wet sections on the rough asphalt.

However, Esapekka Lappi proved equal to all of these difficulties at the wheel of his ŠKODA Fabia R5. The 24-year-old got the best time on the morning's 36.43-kilometre special stage, which saw him move up a place to take P2 in the WRC 2 classification. On the 48.46-kilometre special stage, the longest of the Rally Corsica, the fast Finn defended this position in the afternoon. The 2014 European Champion heads into the final day trailing Frenchman Julien Maurin by just 19.0 seconds.

The second ŠKODA works team of Pontus Tidemand/Emil Axelsson (S/S) also returned to the race on Saturday after the ŠKODA mechanics repaired the suspension damage late on Friday evening. The two Swedes were awarded a time penalty of ten minutes for not reaching the finish line on day one and are currently in twelfth place. "First and foremost, massive thanks to the magnificent ŠKODA crew, who fixed our rally car. We will use the remaining stages to try and make it into the top ten," said Tidemand.

Three stages covering 94.91 kilometres are scheduled for Sunday. It will then be seen whether ŠKODA can continue its run of success in WRC 2. In all five of the WRC starts so far this year, at least one ŠKODA Fabia R5 has finished on the podium.



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## Number of the day for the Rally Corsica: 3

Former European Champion Armin Kremer (D) delivered another fantastic performance in a ŠKODA Fabia R5 from the customer racing area. The 46-year-old veteran and his co-driver Pirmin Winklhofer are in third place in the WRC 2 standings, directly behind ŠKODA works driver Esapekka Lappi, going into the final day. This means Kremer is in with a great chance of finishing on the podium.

## Rally Corsica – WRC 2 Result

1. Maurin/Klinger (F/F), Ford Fiesta S2000	1:46:30.1 hrs.
2. Lappi/Ferm (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA Fabia R5	+ 0:19.0 min.
3. Kremer/Winklhofer (D/D), ŠKODA Fabia R5	+ 1:28.3 min.
4. Suninen/Markkula (FIN/FIN), Ford Fiesta R5	+ 3:05.0 min.
5. Camilli/Veillas (F/F), Ford Fiesta R5	+ 3:32.7 min.
12. Tidemand/Axelsson (S/S), ŠKODA Fabia R5	+ 13:46.6 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
<b>Rally Corsica</b>	<b>01.10.–04.10.2015</b>
Rally Spain	22.10.–25.10.2015
Rally Great Britain	12.11.–15.11.2015



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### ŠKODA at the Rally Corsica

Things look promising for the Finns Esapekka Lappi (FIN) and Janne Ferm (FIN) in the ŠKODA Fabia R5 as they head into the final day in second place.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at the Rally Corsica

The new Asia-Pacific Champions Pontus Tidemand/Emil Axelsson (S/S) finished in fourth place on the first special stage on Saturday.

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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.