



ŠKODA Motorsport Press Release, Page 1 of 4

Rally Hustopeče: Kopecký hunting a hat-trick of wins in the ŠKODA FABIA R5

- › After two one-two results, ŠKODA Motorsport is favourite to win the third race in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR)
- › ŠKODA works duo Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler have already won the Rally Hustopeče four times
- › Michal Hrabánek: "The whole team must stay as focussed as before"

Mladá Boleslav, 13 June 2016 – All good things come in threes: ŠKODA Motorsport is aiming to complete a hat-trick of wins in this year's Czech Rally Championship (MČR) at the Rally Hustopeče. Works duo Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) are in fine form ahead of the third round of the national championship, having won both the Rally Šumava Klatovy and the Rally Český Krumlov. The Rally Hustopeče takes place in the wine-producing South Moravia region and there are ten special stages to be completed on Friday and Saturday, with a total length of around 150 kilometres. Kopecký/Dresler scored an excellent second place at Rally Italy in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) last weekend.

"At the Rally Hustopeče, we want to continue where we left off at Český Krumlov," says ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek. "The whole team must stay as focussed as before – this is the only way for us to have a chance of winning the third race in the national championship, and of defending our title." The first two rounds of the MČR season saw Pontus Tidemand /Jonas Andersson (S/S) finish second twice to seal one-twos for ŠKODA Motorsport, but this time just Kopecký/Dresler representing ŠKODA as a works duo.

In 2015 and 2016, the national champions have won all seven of the races in the Czech national championship, in which they have competed in the ŠKODA FABIA R5. The Rally Hustopeče has also been a happy hunting ground for the experienced Czech pair: after a hat-trick of victories between 2011 and 2013, the duo also recorded a fine win last year. These four wins for the ŠKODA drivers are a record at the Rally Hustopeče, and they intend to add another chapter to this success story at the weekend.

"We love the stages in South Moravia and we are looking forward to seeing loads of fans there too," says Kopecký. "Of course we want to put on a good show for them in our ŠKODA FABIA R5, and be up there challenging for the win. That will be easier said than done, as the other drivers will not make it easy for us to win again," explains Kopecký. Arch rival Václav Pech (CZ) will also be competing in his Porsche, as will Vojtěch Štajf (CZ). The ŠKODA customer from the Klokočka ŠKODA Czech National Team recently produced an impressive performance to claim fifth place at the Rally Český Krumlov.



ŠKODA Motorsport Press Release, Page 2 of 4

The drivers will have to hold their nerve on the fast and challenging stages in South Moravia. The ten special stages take place within just 19 hours, and two of them must be completed after dark on Friday evening. The winning driver will celebrate victory early on Saturday afternoon in Hustopeče, which is also the location of the service area.

In addition to the entertainment provided by the rally, the fans will also have plenty to look forward to in the ŠKODA Park. As is usual for the Czech Rally Championship (MČR), there will be a competition to win a ŠKODA OCTAVIA RS 230 for a year. "We have prepared another exciting programme of events to delight the fans in the ŠKODA Park, situated next to the start/finish line," says Michal Pres, Marketing Manager of ŠKODA AUTO Czech Republic. "And, of course, we are hopeful that ŠKODA can extend its winning sequence at the Rally Hustopeče, in the home of our brand."

Czech Rally Championship (MČR)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Rally Šumava Klatovy	29.04.–30.04.2016
Rally Český Krumlov	27.05.–28.05.2016
Rally Hustopeče	17.06.–18.06.2016
Rally Bohemia	02.07.–03.07.2016
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	26.08.–28.08.2016
Rally Příbram	30.09.–01.10.2016

Did you know ...

... ŠKODA first claimed victory at the third Rally Hustopeče in 2007? The winning driver was Leoš Flídr (CZ) in the ŠKODA OCTAVIA WRC, ahead of Jan Kopecký.

... the Rally Hustopeče will be taking place for the twelfth time this year? The event was held for the first time in 2005.

... the Horní Bojanovice/Diváky stage is the longest of the Rally Hustopeče, at 17.43 kilometres? The drivers must complete it twice on Friday, once after dark at 22:35.

... the South Moravia (Jihomoravský kraj) region is one of 14 regions in the Czech Republic? The regional capital is Brno.

... the service area is based in the town of Hustopeče, which gives the rally its name? The coat of arms of the town features a cloven shield in red and gold. One half of the shield shows a bunch of red grapes beneath a silver vineyard knife with a golden handle. The other half shows a half-eagle with red tongue.



ŠKODA Motorsport Press Release, Page 3 of 4

... Hustopeče is around 10 kilometres north-east of the "South Moravian Sea"? The system of man-made lakes was created in the 1980s when the 235-kilometre long River Thaya was dammed.

... the South Moravia region is the most important wine-producing region in the Czech Republic? The area primarily produces white wines, especially the Grüne Veltliner variety that is well-known in neighbouring Lower Austria. You can also find Müller-Thurgau, Welschriesling and Chardonnay wines.

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ŠKODA at the Rally Hustopeče

The Czech ŠKODA works duo Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler won the first two races of the season in the Czech championship, and are aiming to claim victory at the Rally Hustopeče for the fifth time.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at the Rally Hustopeče

The ŠKODA team Kopecký/Dresler celebrated at the Rally Český Krumlov. They are now determined to continue the success story.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO





ŠKODA Motorsport Press Release, Page 4 of 4

ŠKODA Motorsport Overview:

ŠKODA has been on the motorsport scene since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include numerous title wins in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), as well as the victory in the European Touring Car Championship in 1981. ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Monte Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

In 2015, ŠKODA celebrated four victories in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) with their new ŠKODA FABIA R5 rally car. The high-tech 4x4 was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. In the ŠKODA FABIA R5's very first season, factory duo Pontus Tidemand/Emil Axelsson (S/S) secured the fourth APRC title in a row for ŠKODA. In addition, the brand claimed five national titles with their new winning model.

ŠKODA's new FABIA R5 proudly continues the brand's long tradition in motorsport. Its predecessor, the FABIA Super 2000, was the most successful model in ŠKODA's 115-year motorsport history. With the 4x4 from Mladá Boleslav, factory duo Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) achieved the historic feat of becoming the first duo in history to win the drivers' title in the ERC and the APRC in consecutive years. Between 2009 and 2014, ŠKODA FABIA Super 2000 drivers won a total of 50 national and international titles around the world.

In 2016, the factory teams Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (S/S), Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler and Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (F/F) are competing with the ŠKODA FABIA R5 in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2).

ŠKODA AUTO

- › is one of the longest-established vehicle manufacturers in the world. The company was founded in 1895 – during the pioneering days of the automobile. Today, the company's headquarters remain in Mladá Boleslav.
- › currently offers the following models in the range: CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, OCTAVIA, YETI and SUPERB.
- › in 2015 delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide.
- › 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 26,600 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

