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### ŠKODA at the Rally Germany: Confident ahead of the asphalt classic

- › Esapekka Lappi and Jan Kopecký line up for ŠKODA at the Rally Germany
- › 16 ŠKODA teams in action in Trier, including ŠKODA works driver Pontus Tidemand and ŠKODA AUTO Deutschland driver Fabian Kreim
- › ŠKODA on six-race winning streak in the WRC 2
- › Michal Hrabánek: "Outstanding opportunity to demonstrate the strength of our ŠKODA FABIA R5 on asphalt"

**Mladá Boleslav, 15 August 2016 – After six victories in a row, including the home win for flying Finns Esapekka Lappi and Janne Ferm at the prestigious Rally Finland at the end of July, the Czech car maker boasts a strong contingent at the Rally Germany. As well as Lappi/Ferm, last year's winners Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) will also start for the ŠKODA Motorsport team at round nine of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2), which takes place from 18 to 21 August.**

"After the high-speed rallies in Poland and Finland, we will face completely different conditions at the Rally Germany," says ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek. "Instead of gravel forest tracks, the challenges we face in Germany include narrow asphalt roads through the vineyards of the Mosel region and extremely demanding stages on the iconic 'Panzerplatte'. That means two things for us as a team: utmost concentration and an outstanding opportunity to demonstrate the strength of our ŠKODA FABIA R5 on asphalt. We obviously want to add to our winning run in the WRC 2 in Germany," Hrabánek adds.

The Rally Germany is unique to the current world championship calendar. After six gravel rallies in a row, it is not only the first WRC event on asphalt and concrete roads, but it also has a totally unique character. While the Friday and Sunday of the rally take place on the winding asphalt roads in the Mosel vineyards around the rally centre of Trier, Saturday is all about the iconic 'Panzerplatte'. This is the section on the Baumholder military training ground, which features medium-quick routes on a mixture of asphalt roads and concrete slabs. In total, the teams must complete 306.8 kilometres against the clock, spread over 18 stages between Friday morning and Sunday afternoon.

"I am very much looking forward to making my third start in the WRC 2 this year in Germany," says Jan Kopecký. "I like the Rally Germany and always really like racing there. I showed with my win last year that the ŠKODA FABIA R5 is also one of the top cars in its class on asphalt. My goal for this weekend is to score as many points as



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possible for ŠKODA Motorsport in the WRC 2 team competition. Obviously, the best way to do this will be to win again," Kopecký adds.

For Esapekka Lappi, the main goal for the Rally Germany is to add to his points tally in the WRC 2 Drivers' Championship. The 25-year-old Finn is currently fourth overall (57 points) after his victory in Finland. None of the drivers ahead of him in the overall standings will be able to pick up points in Germany. World championship leader Elfyn Evans (GB, Ford, 95 points) and third-placed Nicolas Fuchs (PE, ŠKODA, 59 points) have opted not to race in Germany. Teemu Suninen (FIN, ŠKODA, 93 points), winner of the rallies in Mexico, Italy and Poland, will line up as usual in the ŠKODA FABIA R5 at the Rally Germany. However, as at the Rally Sweden, he has not registered for the WRC 2 classification, meaning he cannot score world championship points.

"The WRC 2 field at the Rally Germany is still extremely strong," says Lappi. "Jan is just one of many favourites for the win. You also have the German and French drivers, who are traditionally very quick at asphalt rallies. I want to put on as good a show as possible and score as many world championship points as I can. I know that the ŠKODA FABIA R5 is also one of the best rally cars in the world on asphalt, I am convinced that I will pick up some good points."

The third ŠKODA works duo of Pontus Tidemand (S) and Jonas Andersson (S) will also be in action in Germany. "I have very fond memories of the Rally Germany, and always enjoy racing there," says Tidemand. "I won the race there in the Junior WRC in 2013, and then claimed my first WRC 2 victory in Germany one year later. I am now starting there for the first time with the ŠKODA FABIA R5 and my co-driver Jonas Andersson, and am looking to gain as much experience as possible."

The last six WRC 2 rallies have been won by drivers in the high-tech four-wheel drive ŠKODA FABIA R5. Works driver Lappi won his home rally in Finland, while team-mate Tidemand climbed onto the top step of the podium at the Rally Portugal. 23-year-old Suninen was victorious at the Rally Italy in June and the Rally Poland in July, having started the winning run at the Rally Mexico. At the Rally Argentina, it was Nicolás Fuchs who was unbeatable in the fast and reliable four-wheel drive car from Mladá Boleslav.





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## FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Rally Monte Carlo	21/01–24/01/2016
Rally Sweden	11/02–14/02/2016
Rally Mexico	03/03–06/03/2016
Rally Argentina	21/04–24/04/2016
Rally Portugal	19/05–22/05/2016
Rally Italy	09/06–12/06/2016
Rally Poland	30/06–03/07/2016
Rally Finland	28/07–31/07/2016
<b>Rally Germany</b>	<b>18/08–21/08/2016</b>
Rally China	08/09–11/09/2016
Rally Corsica	29/09–02/10/2016
Rally Spain	13/10–16/10/2016
Rally Great Britain	27/10–30/10/2016
Rally Australia	17/11–20/11/2016

## Did you know ...

... ŠKODA is the manufacturer with the biggest contingent of R5 cars at the Rally Germany? As well as the works cars of Lappi/Ferm, Kopecký/Dresler and Tidemand/Andersson, a further twelve crews will take to the route in a ŠKODA FABIA R5. Furthermore, Yannick Neuville (B), younger brother of WRC star Thierry Neuville (B), will take part in the Rally Germany in a ŠKODA FABIA Super 2000. You can find a list of all the ŠKODA teams below.

... world championship rivals Teemu Suninen and Pontus Tidemand are unable to score points at the Rally Germany, as they have not registered for the WRC 2 class at the Rally Germany? Each driver can score points towards the overall WRC 2 standings at seven selected rallies over the course of the year. The best six of these results count towards the classification. Gravel specialist Suninen, who is currently second in the world championship with 93 points, has been registered in the WRC 2 class for five of the rallies so far this season, winning three and finishing runner-up in another. Tidemand lies fifth (49 points) in the world championship after four WRC 2 outings (one win).

... ŠKODA has six drivers in the top seven of the overall WRC 2 standings? After eight of the season's 14 races, six drivers at the wheel of the ŠKODA FABIA R5 are lurking behind leader Elfyn Evans (GB, 95 points from six starts), in the form of Teemu Suninen (93/five



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starts), Nicolás Fuchs (59/five starts), works driver Esapekka Lappi (57/four starts), Pontus Tidemand (49/four starts), Hubert Ptaszek (42/six starts) and experienced German Armin Kremer (40/four starts). The third ŠKODA works driver Jan Kopecký (19/two starts) is eleventh.

... three current ŠKODA drivers have already tasted victory at the Rally Germany? As well as Jan Kopecký (WRC 2 winner 2015) and Pontus Tidemand (WRC 2 winner 2014), Armin Kremer (D) has also taken his place on the top step of the podium at the Rally Germany: Kremer was the overall winner of the rally in 1999, before the race belonged to the World Rally Championship.

... the Rally Germany was held for the first time in 1982? The venue for the inaugural race was Frankfurt am Main. Victory went to Erwin Weber (D), who won the rally again ten years later.

... the Rally Germany first formed part of the World Rally Championship in 2002? Since then, the rally has only been missing from the WRC calendar in 2009.

... nine-time world rally champion Sébastien Loeb (F) has won the Rally Germany more than any other driver? The Frenchman triumphed nine times between 2002 and 2012.

... this year's Rally Germany kicks off with the Shakedown on Thursday morning? The first special stage is on Friday morning, the last on Sunday afternoon. The presentation ceremony begins at 15:00 on Sunday.

### ŠKODA teams at the 34<sup>th</sup> Rally Germany

31	Armin Kremer/Primin Winklhofer (D/D)	ŠKODA FABIA R5
32	Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN)	ŠKODA FABIA R5*
33	Max Rendina/Emanuele Inglesi (I/I)	ŠKODA FABIA R5
34	Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari/Killian Duffy (Q/IRL)	ŠKODA FABIA R5
35	Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ)	ŠKODA FABIA R5*
41	Julien Maurin/Olivier Ural (F/F)	ŠKODA FABIA R5
42	Ghislain de Mevius/Johan Jalet (B/B)	ŠKODA FABIA R5
48	Fabian Kreim/Frank Christian (D/D)	ŠKODA FABIA R5
51	Bernhard Ten Brinke/Davy Thierie (NL/NL)	ŠKODA FABIA R5
52	Kristian Poulsen/Ole Frederiksen (DK/DK)	ŠKODA FABIA R5
53	Mark van Eldik/Harmen Scholtalbers (NL/NL)	ŠKODA FABIA R5
54	Edwin Schilt/Lisette Bakker (NL/NL)	ŠKODA FABIA R5
82	Teemu Suninen/Mikko Markkula (FIN/FIN)	ŠKODA FABIA R5



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83	Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (S/S)	ŠKODA FABIA R5**
84	Yannick Neuville/Jürgen Heigl (B/A)	ŠKODA FABIA Super 2000**
86	Thomas Wallenwein/Benedikt Hofmann (D/D)	ŠKODA FABIA R5**

\* racing for ŠKODA Motorsport at the Rally Germany.

\*\* not registered in the WRC 2 category at the Rally Germany, and therefore not eligible to score world championship points.

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### ŠKODA at the WRC rally in Germany

Flying Finns Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm led from start to finish to win the Rally Finland in the ŠKODA FABIA R5.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at the WRC rally in Germany

Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler won the WRC 2 class at last year's Rally Germany in the ŠKODA FABIA R5.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO





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### ŠKODA at the WRC rally in Germany

Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson are looking forward to their first Rally Germany in the ŠKODA FABIA R5.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

### 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 Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), 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 Tidem and/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).





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### 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, Rapid, Octavia, Yeti and Superb.
- › delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide in 2015.
- › 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 such as engines and gear transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic. It also produces in China, Russia, Slovakia and India, mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- › employs about 25,900 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

