

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Rally Šumava Klatovy: Jan Kopecký and ŠKODA continue their impressive winning streak

- › Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) dominate the second round of the Czech Rally Championship (MČR)
- › ŠKODA's works teams remain unbeaten in 2017
- › Czech champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler drive 9 of 13 best times

**Klatovy, 22 April 2017 – Unperturbed by weather shenanigans, rain on the second leg and a time penalty, Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) have driven to a resounding victory in the Rally Šumava Klatovy. However, ŠKODA Stablmates Jan Černý/Petr Černožorský were unlucky when a time penalty caused them to lose second place to Ford driver Václav Pech.**

Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) laid the foundation for their resounding victory in the Rally Šumava Klatovy in the first stage on Friday. The Czech champions drove four convincing best times, with the fifth special stage abandoned for safety reasons due to oil on the road left behind by one of the vehicles participating in the historic category. Kopecký and Dresler finished the day with a comfortable lead of around half a minute.

Kopecký and co-driver Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) turned in five more best times on Saturday, despite heavy rain transforming the morning's fast stages around Klatovy into treacherous slippery roads.

Brand stablmates Jan Černý/Petr Černožorský in their private ŠKODA FABIA R5 had pushed their way into second place and were locked in a thrilling duel with Ford team Václav Pech/Petr Uhel. On their way to a refuelling stop between the eighth and ninth stages, Kopecký's co-driver Dresler and Černý's navigator Černožorský misinterpreted an unclear instruction in the roadbook and missed a junction. As a consequence, both teams reached the refueling station via a route other than the one specified and each were penalised 15 seconds. While Jan Kopecký continued on his way unaffected at the top of the leader board, the penalty was enough to lose Jan Černý the battle for second place.

Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler drove the remaining stages with their ŠKODA FABIA R5 with a controlled speed, safely bringing home their second win of the season and extending their lead in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR).

### Rally Šumava Klatovy (MČR) final standings

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 1:19.49,5 h.
2. Pech jun./Uhel (CZE/CZE), Ford Fiesta R5, +47,1 s.
3. Černý/Černožorský jun. (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +1.12,5 min.
4. Szeja/Szeja (POL/POL), Ford Fiesta R5, +2.06,7 min.
5. Drohna/Ernst (CZE/CZE), Ford Focus RS WRC 06, +2.38,0 min.
6. Tarabus/Machu (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA S2000, +3.00,2 min.



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## The 2017 calendar for the Czech Rally Championship (MČR)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Valašská Rally	25.03.–26.03.2017
Rally Šumava Klatovy	21.04.–22.04.2017
Rally Český Krumlov	19.05.–20.05.2017
Rally Hustopeče	16.06.–17.06.2017
Rally Bohemia	01.07.–02.07.2017
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	25.08.–27.08.2017
Rally Příbram	06.10.–08.10.2017

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## Media images:



Leaping to a resounding victory in the Rally Šumava Klatovy: Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5)

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



Jan Kopecký (right) and co-driver Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) have extended their lead in the Czech Championship (MČR) with their second win of the season

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

## ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been successful 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 winning the title in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) for the first time in 2016, 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.

2016 was one of the most successful years in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport. In the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2), Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) won the title for the Czech car maker for the first time. In total, ten of the 2016 season's races in the World Rally Championship were won by a ŠKODA FABIA R5. ŠKODA drivers Gustavo Saba (PRY) and Gaurav Gill (IND) also won the continental championships in South America and the Asia-Pacific region at the wheel of the successful ŠKODA FABIA R5. Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT) was unbeatable in the Middle East Rally Championship (MERC), while a further ten national titles also went the way of ŠKODA drivers.

The ŠKODA FABIA R5, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. ŠKODA's new FABIA R5 is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. Its predecessor, the FABIA SUPER 2000, won 50 national and international titles around the world. In 2017, works duos Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) and Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) will contest selected races in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2). Kopecký/Dresler will also compete in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR), where they will be looking to claim a third title in a row.

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**ŠKODA**  
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- › 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, KODIAQ and SUPERB.
- › in 2016 delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers 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 30,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

