

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Rally Italia Sardegna: Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler dominating WRC 2 with their ŠKODA FABIA R5

- › Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) took the lead in the first stage of the morning at the seventh round of the World Rally Championship (WRC 2) in Italy
- › Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen with their private ŠKODA FABIA R5 in second position
- › Kopecký and Veiby are fighting for the second place in WRC 2 championship standings
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "Our ŠKODA FABIA R5 proved again how fast and reliable it is."

**Alghero/Italy, 9 June 2017 – Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) took the lead on the first stage on a sunny Friday morning at Rally Italia Sardegna. Championship-Leaders Pontus Tidemand and Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) are taking a break from WRC 2 and will return to the next WRC 2 round, the Rally of Poland. Their Teammates Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) can move to second place in the Championship standings if they win against their stablemates Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR) in their private entered Printsport ŠKODA FABIA R5.**

After the Rally Acropolis was removed from the WRC calendar, the Rally Italia Sardegna is considered as the toughest gravel event in the championship. The Friday featured four tough gravel stages in the north of the island, each being run twice. On the first stage on Friday morning, Kopecký/Dresler stormed into the lead with their ŠKODA FABIA R5. Veiby, who just won his first Rally in Asia Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) for Team ŠKODA MRF, had a tough fight with the Italian Hyundai driver Andolfi for the second position.

"In the second stage, I was braking too late at a junction and lost about ten seconds," commented Veiby. Nevertheless, in the fourth stage he moved into second position and scored his first fastest time on gravel in WRC 2 one stage later. Jan Kopecký dominated the category and was delighted with his performance: "I am really happy because I was not running on gravel for a some time, so we are trying to improve step by step and the car is working well. These cars can take anything you throw at them. You need to be careful with big rocks, it is better to avoid them". Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler drove faultlessly into a lead with 52 seconds ahead of Norwegian youngster team Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen.

While the Hyundai driver Andolfi and the French Ford pilot Loubet had to retire, both ŠKODA Teams were clearly dominating the WRC 2 category at the end of the first leg of Rally Italia Sardegna. ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek was delighted: "Our ŠKODA FABIA R5 proved again how fast and reliable it is. Jan and Pavel were never in danger to loose the lead and did a very good job today." On Saturday, the longest and toughest day of the rally with six special stages covering 144 kilometres is waiting for the teams at Rally Italia Sardegna.





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## Standings Rally Italia Sardegna after leg 1 (WRC 2)

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 1:35:23.5 h
2. Veiby/Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +52.7 sec.
3. Katsuta/Salminen (JPN/FIN), Ford Fiesta R5, +2.24.9 min.
4. Rossel/Fulcrand (FRA/FRA), Citroën DS3 R5, +5.03.9 min.
5. Arai/Macneall (JPN/AUS), Ford Fiesta R5, +12.48.8 min.
6. Pieniazek/Mazur (POL/POL), Peugeot 208 T16, +13.08.0

Number of the day: 5

On five out of nine special stages Jan Kopecký was the fastest driver in the WRC 2 category. Norwegian youngster Veiby was two times fastest.

## The 2017 calendar of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Rally Monte Carlo	19/01–22/01/2017
Rally Sweden	09/02–12/02/2017
Rally Mexico	09/03–12/03/2017
Rally France	06/04–09/04/2017
Rally Argentina	27/04–30/04/2017
Rally Portugal	18/05–21/05/2017
Rally Italy	08/06–11/06/2017
Rally Poland	29/06–02/07/2017
Rally Finland	27/07–30/07/2017
Rally Germany	17/08–20/08/2017
Rally Spain	05/10–08/10/2017
Rally Great Britain	26/10–29/10/2017
Rally Australia	16/11–19/11/2017

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## Media images:



### ŠKODA at Rally Italia Sardegna

Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler leading Rally Italia Sardegna in a dominant way in WRC 2 category with their ŠKODA FABIA R5

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at Rally Italia Sardegna

Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) want to climb with a win in WRC 2 at Rally Italia Sardegna on second position in the category standings

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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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- › 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.

