

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Rally Hustopeče: Kopecký/Dresler face WRC 2 leaders Tidemand/Andersson

- › Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler are favourites to win the fourth round of the Czech Rally Championship (MČR)
- › ŠKODA factory team Kopecký/Dresler back on home soil after winning WRC 2 at Rally Italia Sardegna
- › WRC 2 world championship leaders Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson are competing in South Moravia as well
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: “We want to continue our winning streak in the Czech Rally Championship.”

Mladá Boleslav, 15 June 2017 – At Rally Hustopeče ŠKODA Motorsport is aiming for the next victory. Factory team Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) is going with a strong tail wind into the fourth round of this year’s Czech Rally Championship (MČR). Both scored a convincing WRC 2 win at last weekend’s world championship Rally Italia Sardegna. Upcoming Friday and Saturday twelve stages totalling 150 kilometres await the competitors. WRC 2 championship leaders Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE), another ŠKODA factory team, are competing on the roads of South Moravia’s wine region as well.

“At Rally Hustopeče we want to continue where we left at Rally Český Krumlov,” says ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek and adds: “Pontus and Jonas so far have done only events on snow or gravel, except of the season opening Rally Monte Carlo. They will compete at Rally Hustopeče to get more experience on tarmac ahead of the upcoming German round of the World Rally Championship.”

Pontus Tidemand is well aware of the tough competition inside the ŠKODA Motorsport team. “Last year I have been at the rallies Šumava Klatovy and Český Krumlov where I finished both times second behind Jan. I know, it is very difficult to beat him on his home ground, but I will give it a try,” Tidemand looks ahead.

“My focus is crystal clear on winning the Czech Rally Championship,” says last year’s winner Jan Kopecký. Also among the frontrunners are Ford drivers Václav Pech and Pavel Valoušek as well as Martin Kočí in a privately run ŠKODA FABIA R5.

The rally fans can expect a thrilling weekend. The first leg of the fourth round of Czech Rally Championship (MČR) will start on Friday at 19h00, half of the six stages of the first day are run in darkness. On Saturday the teams are facing six more stages, before at 16h34 after 150 kilometres on a total of twelve stages the winner is expected at the finish line in Hustopeče.



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## The 2017 calendar of 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
<b>Rally Hustopeče</b>	<b>16/06–17/06/2017</b>
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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#### ŠKODA at Rally Hustopeče

Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE), driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, want to continue their winning streak in the Czech Rally Championship at Rally Hustopeče.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



#### ŠKODA at the Rally Hustopeče

At Rally Hustopeče Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (ŠKODA FABIA R5) are aiming for their first victory in the Czech Republic.

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## 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.

## 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, 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.

