

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Rally Poland: ŠKODA Motorsport's Tidemand increases WRC 2 lead, debut win for Youngster Ole Christian Veiby

- › ŠKODA factory team Pontus Tidemand and co-driver Jonas Andersson pulling away at the top of the WRC 2 standings with second place at Rally Poland
- › Asia Pacific Rally Championship leaders Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen (ŠKODA FABIA R5) score first win in World Rally Championship (WRC 2)
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "Now Pontus is in the best position to win the WRC 2 title. Congratulations to Ole Christian Veiby for his first victory."

Mikolajki/Poland, 2 July 2017 – For the eighth time in a row in 2017 a ŠKODA FABIA R5 team won a round of the World Rally Championship. At Rally Poland, current Asia Pacific Rally Championship leaders Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR), driving a Printsport entered ŠKODA FABIA R5, achieved their first win on World Rally Championship level. After already winning four WRC 2 events this season ŠKODA Motorsport's Pontus Tidemand and co-driver Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) came second. With a WRC 2 championship lead of 50 points they are now in best position to win this year's title.

The weather changed on the final day of the rally back to the poor conditions of the opening day. Heavy rain falls made the gravel tracks of the Masurian Lake District slippery and treacherous again. After Pontus Tidemand's time consuming puncture on Saturday afternoon, the race for the first place in WRC 2 category was more or less decided. Youngster Ole Christian Veiby secured his very first WRC 2 win with a faultless and very concentrated drive and climbed into the second position in the championship standings.

"Congratulations to both teams. Bringing home the victory Ole Christian and Stig Rune not only proved that they are really fast, but very clever too. For us this result is another confirmation of our decision to employ both to compete for ŠKODA in the Asia Pacific Rally Championship. With a valuable second place Pontus and Jonas are in the best position to win the championship prematurely this year," commented a delighted ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek at the finish line in Mikolajki.

Pontus Tidemand was fastest in WRC 2 on three of the remaining four stages of the final leg of Rally Poland securing second place and valuable points for the championship home. "It is a pity that a puncture stopped the nice fight with Ole Christian. Congratulations to him for this great performance. However the points for second place put me in a very good position in the championship race, which was in the end my main goal," concluded the WRC 2 leader from Sweden.

The eighth round of World Rally Championship proved again, that the ŠKODA FABIA R5 is by far the fastest and most reliable car in WRC 2 category. At the finish line in Mikolajki ŠKODA teams occupied top four positions in the category. In the WRC 2 championship standings, ŠKODA works driver Pontus Tidemand leads after eight rounds with 118 points ahead of stablemate Ole Christian Veiby (68 points).



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## Final Result Rally Poland (WRC 2)

1. Veiby/Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 2:53.29,3 h
2. Tidemand/Andersson (SWE/SWE) ŠKODA FABIA R5, + 32.9 sec.
3. Gilbert/Jamoul (FRA/BEL), ŠKODA FABIA R5, + 4:20.3 min.
4. Guerra/Cué (MEX/ESP), ŠKODA FABIA R5, + 7:04.9 min.
5. Bonato/Boulloud (FRA/FRA), Citroën DS3 R5, +7:22.9 min.
6. Chuchala/Rozwadowski (POL/POL), Ford Fiesta R5, + 8:16.9 min.

## Current standings WRC 2 after eight rounds

1. Pontus Tidemand (SWE), ŠKODA, 118 points
2. Ole Christian Veiby (NOR), 68 points
3. Teemu Suninen (FIN), Ford, 54 points
4. Eric Camilli (FRA), Ford, 52 points
5. Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), ŠKODA, 50 points
6. Jan Kopecký (CZE), ŠKODA, 49 points

Number of the day: 8

Since the first round of 2017 World Rally Championship in Monte Carlo, ŠKODA FABIA R5 teams won each of the eight rounds in WRC 2 category

## 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 Sardinia | 08/06–11/06/2017        |
| <b>Rally Poland</b>  | <b>29/06–02/07/2017</b> |
| 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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## ŠKODA Motorsport:



## Media images:



### ŠKODA at Rally Poland

Pontus Tidemand and co-driver Jonas Andersson (ŠKODA FABIA R5) finished second at Rally Poland behind ŠKODA stablemates Ole-Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at Rally Poland

With a second place at Rally Poland Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (ŠKODA FABIA R5) extended the lead in WRC 2 category and are now in a good position to win the 2017 championship

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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 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.

