

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 1 of 3



ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

Rally Mexico: ŠKODA's Tidemand leading WRC 2 – Rovanperä back in the game with four stage wins

- › After day three Pontus Tidemand and co-driver Jonas Andersson continue to dominate the WRC 2 category with their ŠKODA FABIA R5
- › Teammates Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen re-started after they had to retire on the second stage and delivered a stunning comeback with setting four fastest times
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "I am happy with the performance of both crews. Our ŠKODA FABIA R5 proved again speed and reliability on tough gravel roads."

León/Mexico, 10 March 2018 – After three of four days ŠKODA factory crew Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) still control the WRC 2 category at Rally Guanajuato Mexico. The reigning WRC 2 Champions are leading the third round of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) by 5:42 Minutes and moved into 7th position of the overall classification. Teammates Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) had to retire on the second stage of the rally after hitting a massive stone. Their ŠKODA FABIA R5 was repaired, and after re-starting on Saturday morning under Rally 2 regulations, they managed an impressive comeback winning four stages and finishing the day in 5th position of WRC 2 category.

After their mishap on the second stage of the rally, Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen had a good re-start on Saturday morning. They won WRC 2 category in the opening stage ahead of their teammates Pontus Tidemand and Jonas Andersson. On the next two stages, the reigning WRC 2 Champion was the fastest driver. Both ŠKODA factory crews seemed to be unbeatable on the tough and demanding gravel stages of Rally Mexico. But the challenge for both drivers was all but easy. "Pontus should be focused to avoid unnecessary risks, for Kalle it is all about getting more experience of the Mexican stages. Our ŠKODA FABIA R5 proved again speed and reliability on tough gravel roads," emphasized ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek.

Pontus Tidemand, leading the WRC 2 category with a massive lead at the end of the Saturday leg, confessed: "It is very hard to find a really good rhythm, but I think I found it in the end. It is all about a good balance. If you drive too slowly, you lose concentration and the car does not work well." 17 years old youngster Kalle Rovanperä followed the order of the team as well and stressed out: "We have been carefully this morning. After what happened yesterday to us, it is all about learning and getting more experience." Although both ŠKODA factory teams drove concentrated and safely, no WRC 2 competitor could match their speed. During the Saturday leg, between them they won all stages, with Tidemand being quickest five times while Rovanperä scored four best times.

On Sunday (11 March), Rally Mexico features three more stages covering final 46.46 kilometres, including the Powerstage "Las Minas", before the winner will be on the podium on Sunday at 14h30 (local time). Rally Guanajuato Mexico is based in León, the country's fifth largest city some 400 kms north-west of Mexico City.



ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 2 of 3



ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

Standings Rally Mexico after Day 3 (WRC 2)

1. Tidemand/Andersson (SWE/SWE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 3:34:27.3 h
2. Greensmith/Parry (GBR/GBR), Ford Fiesta R5, +5:42.6 min.
3. Heller/Olmos (CHL/ARG), Ford Fiesta R5, +12:18.8 min.
4. Bulacia Wilkinson/Mussano (BOL/ARG), Ford Fiesta R5, +20:30.6 min.
5. Rovanperä/Halttunen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +1:02.55.1 h

Number of the day: 7

ŠKODA works driver Pontus Tidemand is not only leading the WRC 2 category at the Rally Mexico, he currently is also holding 7th position of the overall classification.

The 2018 calendar of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Monte-Carlo	24/01–28/01/2018
Sweden	15/02–18/02/2018
Mexico	08/03–11/03/2018
France	05/04–08/04/2018
Argentina	26/04–29/04/2018
Portugal	17/05–20/05/2018
Italy	07/06–10/06/2018
Finland	26/07–29/07/2018
Germany	16/08–19/08/2018
Turkey	13/09–16/09/2018
Great Britain	04/10–07/10/2018
Spain	25/10–28/10/2018
Australia	15/11–18/11/2018

Further information:

Zbyněk Straškraba, Communications Motorsport

P +420 605 293 168

zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

ŠKODA Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter



ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

Page 3 of 3

Media images:



ŠKODA at Rally Mexico 2018

After day three Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE), driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, increased their WRC 2 lead up to 5:42 minutes and are close to repeat last year's category victory

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at Rally Mexico 2018

After re-starting Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) powered their ŠKODA FABIA R5 to four WRC 2 stage wins and moved up to 5th place of the category

[Download](#)

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.

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 the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) 2016, Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) won the title for the Czech car maker. 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.

2017 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport. Works duo Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (S/S) became WRC 2 Champions, ŠKODA Motorsport won the Team Championship. Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) won the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the third time in a row and are the spearhead of in total 14 crews winning their country's national titles. Furthermore the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC) have been won by teams competing in a ŠKODA FABIA R5.

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, KAROQ, KODIAQ and SUPERB.
- › in 2017 delivered more than 1,2 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, Algeria 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.

