

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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ŠKODA Motorsport with Kopecký and Veiby well prepared for the 10.000 corners of Tour de Corse

- › At the French round of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship Czech Champions Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler eye WRC 2 championship lead
- › Teammates Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen are competing on the Mediterranean island as well
- › Engine upgrade for ŠKODA FABIA R5 offers more power and torque
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "We are well prepared with an improved ŠKODA FABIA R5, customers will benefit from our experience."

Mladá Boleslav, 29 March 2018 – For the first time in the 2018 season of the FIA World Rally Championship, ŠKODA Motorsport factory crews Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) and Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR) face pure tarmac roads on the fourth round of the WRC 2, the Rally France/Tour de Corse (5-8 April 2018). Men and machine are well prepared for the so-called "Rally of the 10.000 corners". While Kopecký and Veiby successfully honed their tarmac driving skills on the opening round of the Czech Championship, the Rally Valašská two weeks before, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 got an engine upgrade, improving engine power, performance and torque.

Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler are eager to compete in the Tour de Corse. "I finished second in the WRC 2 category in Corsica in 2016. And in 2011, 2012 and 2013 I also achieved a second place each time. Last year, I had some power steering issues, which cost me the chance to fight for a podium result. Now I want to take a revenge for last year's mishap," says Kopecký with a grin. Ahead of the Tour de Corse, the Czech Champion prepared himself with a special asphalt warm-up, scoring a dominant win with his ŠKODA FABIA R5 at the first round of the Czech Rally Championship 2018, the Rally Valašská. Kopecký, who won the WRC 2 category at Rally Monte Carlo, the opening round of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), could take the lead in the 2018 WRC 2 championship standings by winning in Corsica.

Teammates Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen prepared themselves as well on the Rally Valašská by finishing in third place. "I did not compete on tarmac since the Tour de Corse last year, so it was a welcome experience to get the feeling again for the ŠKODA FABIA R5 on asphalt. After my fifth place in 2017, I want to achieve another top result," says O.C. Veiby.

Not only both crews, but the ŠKODA FABIA R5 as well is travelling well prepared to the Mediterranean island. To maintain the global success of the ŠKODA FABIA R5, ŠKODA Motorsport recently upgraded the currently most successful rally car in its category. ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek explains: "In the past, our work on the ŠKODA FABIA R5 focussed on reliability. As a result, none of the factory cars had to retire due to technical issues so far. Thanks to the presence of our works team in the FIA World Rally Championship, we got the experience to continuously develop the car making the FABIA R5 the best car in its category. In 2018 we are facing new R5 cars from our competitors. As a result, we are now offering an engine upgrade to our customer teams which improves torque, power output, drivability and the throttle response of the engine. At the Tour de Corse, Jan and O.C. will benefit from this upgrade which offers on top of that nine horse powers more."



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The Rally France/Tour de Corse features only twelve timed stages, which are notorious for their length and the fact, that virtually no straight is longer than 50 metres thus the organisers call it the "Rally of the 10.000 corners". Nevertheless the competitive mileage sums up to more than 333 kilometres. On Sunday, the penultimate monster test Vero – Sarrola – Carcopino will bring men and machine to their limits on a gruelling, non-stop sequence of corners over more than 55 kilometres. The winner will reach the island's capital Ajaccio at 15h00 on the "Place du Diamant".

Did you know, that...

...already from 1973 to 2008, the Tour de Corse was the French round of the FIA World Rally Championship, being replaced by the Rally Alsace for a couple of years?

...in 2011 and 2012 the Tour de Corse/Rally Corsica was part of the Intercontinental Rally Championship (IRC), 2013 and 2014 of the European Rally Championship (ERC)?

...in 2015, the Tour de Corse moved back into the WRC calendar and is considered one of the absolute classics in the WRC calendar alongside legendary events like the Rally Monte-Carlo?

...in 2011, 2012 and 2013 Jan Kopecký achieved second places in the category with a ŠKODA FABIA S2000, repeating this success in 2016 with a ŠKODA FABIA R5?

...the longest stage with more than 55 kilometres and one of the shortest stages, the closing Power Stage over approx. 16 kilometres, both take place on the final day?

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/Tour de Corse	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



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ŠKODA at the Rally France/Tour de Corse 2018

Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZR/CZR), competing in a ŠKODA FABIA R5, want to conquer the lead in the WRC 2 overall standings by winning in Corsica.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at the Rally France/Tour de Corse 2018

At the fourth round of 2018 FIA World Rally Championship, Ole Christian Veiby (left) and Stig Rune Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR) continue their WRC 2 campaign with a ŠKODA FABIA R5.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO





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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.

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 35,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

