

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

Page 1 of 4

## Jan Kopecký and ŠKODA with dominant WRC 2 win at Rally France/Tour de Corse

- › On the Mediterranean island Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler powered their ŠKODA FABIA R5 to victory in WRC 2 category and moved into the championship lead
- › ŠKODA teammates Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen won another two stages and despite gearbox issues during the second day finished fourth in the WRC 2 category
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "Our perfect season continues. Now we have a double lead in the WRC 2 category standings of the FIA World Rally Championship."

**Bastia, 8 April 2018 – ŠKODA factory team Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) achieved a dominant start-to-finish win in WRC 2 category at Rally France/Tour de Corse. Their young Norwegian teammates Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR) drove two more fastest stage times and by just 1.8 seconds missed the podium, which was completed by Italian ŠKODA privateer Fabio Andolfi.**

The second from three legs of the fourth round of the FIA World Rally Championship on Saturday brought mixed emotions for the team members of ŠKODA Motorsport. While Jan Kopecký with four stage wins stretched his WRC 2 lead to nearly one and a half minutes, teammate O.C. Veiby moved up to second place in the WRC 2 category standings after the second run through the longest stage of the day. But in the last test of the day, a malfunctioning gear link shift made the gearbox of his ŠKODA FABIA R5 stuck in first gear. Veiby lost more than two and a half minutes and as a result also second place. His rival, Citroën driver Bonato, was delayed by a false alarm of the GPS safety device in his car, which forced him to stop on stage eight. Hours later, the stewards gave him a time compensation, and Bonato moved back into second in WRC 2 category.

After his ŠKODA FABIA R5 had been successfully revised at the service on Saturday evening, at the restart on Sunday morning Ole Christian Veiby found himself in fourth position, more than 55 seconds behind Italian ŠKODA privateer Fabio Andolfi. All eyes were now on the young Norwegian youngster and the question was: Can he move back into the third position in WRC 2 and consequently onto the podium? The first of Sunday's two stages was the gruelling 55.17 kilometres test between Vero and Sarrola-Carcopino, which reached the highest geographical point of the rally with an altitude of more than 885 metres above sea level. Since 1986, this also was the longest stage of the Tour de Corse.

And Ole Christian Veiby drove a fantastic stage time, beating Andolfi by impressive 47.7 seconds and closing the gap to a mere 7.9 seconds before the final Power Stage. Kopecký meanwhile took a cautious approach: "I have a huge gap to the guys behind me. I avoided every stone on the road to just bring the car to the finish in one piece. We are happy, our ŠKODAFABIA R5 was working perfectly." On the last stage, the Czech Champion even managed to defend eighth position in the overall classification. O.C. Veiby set the last fastest time in the WRC 2 category, but in the end missed the podium by just 1.8 seconds. Third went to Italian ŠKODA privateer Fabio Andolfi.

ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek was delighted: "Our perfect season continues. Now we have a double lead in the WRC 2 category standings of the FIA World Rally Championship. Jan demonstrated that on asphalt he is the man to beat in WRC 2. And O.C. impressed me not only





**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 2 of 4

with his pure speed and fantastic stage times. He also proved his great moral after his mishap during leg two and was very close to fight back into a podium position.”

## Final Result Rally France/Tour de Corse (WRC 2)

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 3:37:27.5 h
2. Bonato/Boulloud, (FRA/FRA), Citroën C3 R5, +1:51.2 sec.
3. Andolfi/Scattolin (ITA/ITA), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +3:08.5 min.
4. Veiby/ Skjaermøen (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +3:10.3 min.
5. Pieniazek/Mazur (POL/POL), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +13:05.6 min.

Number of the day: 55

The longest stage of the Rally France/Tour de Corse was the more than 55 kilometres long test between Vero and Sarrola-Carcopino. The fastest crew on this monster stage was the ŠKODA factory crew of O.C. Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermøen.

## Current championship standings WRC 2 (after four of 13 rounds)

1. Kopecký (CZE), ŠKODA, 50 points
2. Tidemand (SWE), ŠKODA, 43 points
3. Katsuta (JPN), Ford, 29 points
4. Veiby (NOR), ŠKODA, 27 points

## The calendar of the 2018 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        |
| <b>France</b> | <b>05/04–08/04/2018</b> |
| 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        |



# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



Page 3 of 4

## Further information:

Zbyněk Straškraba, Communications Motorsport

P +420 605 293 168

[zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz](mailto:zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz)

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

## ŠKODA Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter

## Media images:



### ŠKODA at the Rally France/Tour de Corse 2018

On the Mediterranean island Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE), driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, scored their second WRC 2 victory of the season

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at the Rally France/Tour de Corse 2018

At the fourth round of the FIA World Rally Championship, ŠKODA youngsters Ole Christian Veiby and Stig Rune Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR) finished fourth in WRC 2 category

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO





**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 4 of 4

## 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.

