

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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ADAC Rallye Deutschland: ŠKODA driver Kopecký wants to take the WRC 2 Championship lead

- › ŠKODA works crew Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler have the chance to move into the top spot, championship points leaders Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson are not competing
- › ŠKODA Motorsport youngster Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen with their ŠKODA FABIA R5 are also aiming for a top result at upcoming German WRC round
- › With eleven entries ŠKODA is the strongest brand in RC 2 class again

Mladá Boleslav, 9 August 2018 – With a class victory at the upcoming ADAC Rallye Deutschland (16–19/08/2018) newly crowned Czech Rally Champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) can move into the lead of the WRC 2 championship interim standings. They would overtake teammates and championship leaders Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE), who have not nominated the German WRC round as one of their points scoring events and thus are not competing.

ŠKODA crews won seven out of eight rounds of the WRC 2 category of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship so far. Factory drivers Pontus Tidemand and Jan Kopecký are holding first and second overall of the WRC 2 standings with a clear lead. ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek says: "We are on a good way to defend driver and team titles in WRC 2. Concerning the driver's championship, Pontus and Jan will do the same number of events until the end of the season to have an equal chance in the title fight."

Due to the WRC 2 regulations, each driver can only nominate seven out of the 13 rallies counting for the WRC 2 championship. Only the best six results count at the end of the year. As leader Pontus Tidemand has already four events done (93 points, victories in Mexico, Argentina and Portugal plus a second place in Sweden) with runner-up Jan Kopecký one start down (75 points with wins in Monte Carlo, Corsica and Sardinia), Tidemand will skip the upcoming ADAC Rallye Deutschland.

The ninth round of World Rally Championship 2018 is a mixture of 18 tarmac stages with totally different characteristics. Jan Kopecký says: "It's all about avoiding a puncture. Last year, I was leading WRC 2 until I collected a puncture on the notorious 'Panzerplatte' stage on the military area of Baumholder. This is something I don't want to repeat this year. On the other hand, I won WRC 2 in Germany back in 2015, that's something I definitely want to repeat." Like in 2017 Jan Kopecký could secure the Czech Rally Championship already two events before the end of the 2018 season.

ŠKODA Junior Kalle Rovanperä is looking forward to the first pure tarmac rally he is driving for the official ŠKODA Motorsport factory team. "I like the challenge of ADAC Rallye Deutschland. There are all kind of tarmac stages. Tricky and small roads with a lot of hairpins in the vineyards along the river Mosel. Gruelling and fast tank tracks on rough concrete on the military area of Baumholder, which are extremely abrasive, slippery and lined by concrete blocks, the infamous 'Hinkelsteins'. I had good pre-event tests and I cannot wait to drive the ŠKODA FABIA R5 there."





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With seven entries in WRC 2 at ADAC Rallye Deutschland the ŠKODA FABIA R5 again is the most popular car in this category. Amongst the top drivers mounted on one of the rally cars from Mladá Boleslav are reigning German Rally Champions, Fabian Kreim/Frank Christian, driving for ŠKODA Auto Deutschland. ŠKODA works junior crew Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen is competing in RC 2 class with a privately entered ŠKODA FABIA R5 in order to get more experience on tarmac. With eleven entries in total, ŠKODA again is the most popular brand in the RC 2 class, which includes the WRC 2 category.

ADAC Rallye Deutschland starts on Thursday (16 August) at 19h08 with a show stage in the streets of St. Wendel. Friday (17 August) features six stages in the vineyards along the Mosel river, Saturday's (18 August) focus is with eight special stages mainly on the military area of Baumholder. After 18 tests totalling 325.75 kilometres, the winner will reach the podium in St. Wendel on Sunday (19 August) at around 13h00.

Did you know...

... that for the 2018 event the start of the rally was moved from the capital of the federal state of Saarland, Saarbrücken, to the small town of St. Wendel, where the first special stage and the podium ceremony will take place?

... that in 2002 only ADAC Rallye Deutschland joined the WRC after former ADAC Rallye Deutschland and AvD Hunsrück Rallye merged into one event?

...that the changeable road conditions and mixed tarmac surfaces require a suitable compromise in the cars' suspension setup and tire choice?

... that concerning WRC 2 stage wins, ŠKODA Motorsport driver Jan Kopecký with 34 fastest times is by far the most successful driver at ADAC Rallye Deutschland?

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 |
| 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 |





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ŠKODA at ADAC Rally Deutschland 2018

With a WRC 2 victory ŠKODA works crew Jan Kopecký/ Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) want to move into the lead of the category standings.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at ADAC Rally Deutschland 2018

After their stunning performance at the recent NESTE Rally Finland, Finnish ŠKODA junior crew Kalle Rovander/ Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5) want to achieve a top result on German tarmac as well.

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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.

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- › 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.

