

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



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Page 1 of 4

## ADAC Rallye Deutschland: ŠKODA trio tops WRC 2 Rovanperä leads from Andolfi and Kopecký

- › After day three ŠKODA Motorsport youngster Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen sensationally moved into first position of WRC 2 category standings
- › ŠKODA works crew Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler lost WRC 2 lead after suffering a puncture, but until the end of Saturday fought back from ninth to third position
- › After a stunning performance ŠKODA privateer Fabio Andolfi currently second in WRC 2

**Bosen, 18 August 2018 – The third day of ADAC Rallye Deutschland (16–19/08/2018) presented ups and downs for the ŠKODA Motorsport crews. Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) were leading the WRC 2 category when they suffered a puncture and initially dropped down to ninth position. With six fastest times they climbed back to third place at the end of Saturday. Their young ŠKODA teammates Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen continued to impress with fast times on the tarmac stages and took the lead of the WRC 2 category, while ŠKODA privateers Fabio Andolfi/Emanuele Inglesi (ITA/ITA) are second in class after a stunning performance.**

During Friday's vineyard stages Czech Rally Champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) powered their ŠKODA FABIA R5 into the lead of the WRC 2 category at ADAC Rallye Deutschland, setting three fastest times on the way. Their young teammates Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) had set the second quickest time overall in the opening street show stage on St. Wendel on Thursday. After a clever ride on Friday, they continued their first tarmac rally for the ŠKODA factory team with fifth position in WRC 2.

Saturday's focus was mainly on the military area of Baumholder and the famous "Panzerplatte". Nearly 100 kilometres of gruelling, fast, rough and extremely abrasive tank tracks were waiting for the crews. On top of that, the stages are lined by big rocks and concrete blocks, the infamous "Hinkelsteins", who are really unforgivable if a car leaves the track. In total, the Saturday leg featured eight special stages running over 150 kilometres in the race against the clock.

Jan Kopecký started into Saturday morning with a second fastest time. But on the first passage of the 38.57 kilometres long "Panzerplatte" stage he collected a puncture after 24.3 kilometres and had to change the tyre. Despite changing the tyre change on the stage in a record braking time, he lost around 1.40 minutes and initially dropped from the lead down to ninth position in WRC 2. "Suddenly I realized that we have a flat front right tyre. We immediately stopped to change," commented Kopecký.

From there on, it was a race to catch up for the Czech Champion. And on the next two stages before the midday service halt, he set two fastest times and moved up to eighth position. Meanwhile teammate Rovanperä powered his ŠKODA FABIA R5 to fourth place in the category. "We didn't risk anything on our first run through the Baumholder stages," said the Finnish youngster during the midday halt.

After the service break the crews were leaving for the afternoon loop, which offered around additional 50 kilometres of two Baumholder stages and around 25 kilometres of two fast country



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Page 2 of 4

road stages. On the short version of the "Panzerplatte" stage, Kopecký set the next fastest time, moved up to seventh position. "We just need to focus now on our own performance, which has to be perfect" he emphasized before he took the start for the more than 38 kilometres long version. And so he did, he was the quickest WRC 2 competitor by far and as a consequence moved up to sixth place. With two more fastest times, he later moved up to third position, while Kalle Rovanperä sensationally took the lead. While the afternoon was very successful for the ŠKODA crews, their competitors suffered from mistakes or technical issues.

ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek was happy at the end of a spectacular Saturday: "What a day! Kalle and Jonne impressed me at their first pure tarmac event for our factory team with their speed and cleverness, which brought them into the lead. Jan and Pavel fought back after their bad luck with the puncture and proved a great moral and their pure speed on tarmac."

After three more tests totalling around 72 kilometres, the winner will reach the podium in St. Wendel on Sunday (19 August) at 13h00.

## Standings ADAC Rallye Deutschland after Day 3 (WRC 2)

1. Rovanperä/Halttunen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 2:34:29.8 h
2. Andolfi/Inglesi (ITA/ITA), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +2.9 sec.
3. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +5.9 sec.
4. Kajetanovicz/Szepaniak (POL/POL), Ford Fiesta R5, +7.8 sec.
5. Kreim/Christian (DEU/DEU), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +40.2 sec.

Number of the day: 6

On the eight stages during the third day of ADAC Rallye Deutschland, Jan Kopecký set six fastest WRC 2 times.

## 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
<b>Germany</b>	<b>16/08/–19/08/2018</b>
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

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### ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland 2018

Finnish ŠKODA junior crew Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5) took the WRC 2 lead on Saturday

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland 2018

On the third day of ADAC Rallye Deutschland ŠKODA works crew Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) recovered from a puncture and climbed from ninth to third position in the WRC 2 category

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# 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.