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ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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ŠKODA defends WRC 2 Title again

- › Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler crown fantastic season with WRC 2 title
- › ŠKODA crews won eleven out of 13 WRC 2 rounds of the FIA World Rally Championship 2018, including four double wins for ŠKODA Motorsport factory team
- › For the third time in a row a ŠKODA works crew won WRC 2 Drivers Championship
- › ŠKODA factory drivers conquer top three places of the WRC 2 overall standings
- › After 2015, 2016 und 2017 ŠKODA Motorsport again secures WRC 2 Team Championship

Prague, 27 November 2018 – Game, set and match for ŠKODA Motorsport: Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) became WRC 2 champions, 2017 winners Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson finished second overall, and youngsters Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) complete a pure ŠKODA podium in the final standings of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship's WRC 2 category. For the fourth time in a row ŠKODA Motorsport won the WRC 2 Championship for Teams (all titles subject to official publication of the results by the FIA). Overall, 2018 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport.

Time to celebrate at the annual Motorsport Press Conference of ŠKODA Motorsport in Prague: By winning the WRC 2 Championship for Drivers as well as Co-drivers for the third time in a row and also conquering the WRC 2 Team Championship for the fourth consecutive time, ŠKODA Motorsport topped the already successful 2017 season. The ŠKODA factory drivers Jan Kopecký, Pontus Tidemand and Kalle Rovanperä occupy the top three places of the WRC 2 final standings.

But not only on FIA World Rally Championship level ŠKODA crews collected victories and titles. The success story of the Czech brand took place worldwide. Scoring victories on all five rounds, one team dominated the **2018 FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC)** – ŠKODA driver Yuya Sumiyama and navigator Takahiro Yasui from Japan. Their Team Cusco's achievements seamless continued the success, ŠKODA Motorsport factory supported teams celebrated during the past years in the Asia Pacific region. Achieving an APRC hat trick from 2012 to 2014 with the normally aspirated ŠKODA FABIA S2000, the following years the Czech brand added four titles in a row with the turbo-powered ŠKODA FABIA R5.

Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) won the **FIA African Rally Championship (ARC)**. Scoring four victories with their privately entered ŠKODA FABIA R5, they could repeat last year's victory.

After winning the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) in 2013, 2016 and 2017, ŠKODA crew Gustavo Saba/Fernando Mussano (PRY/ARG) again were successful. Among their three victories, first place of the CODASUR category at the FIA World Rally Championship round in Argentina was their season highlight.

In the **FIA European Rally Championship (ERC)**, the three top spots of the Under 28 category (for drivers under 28 years old, driving a R5 car) were conquered by ŠKODA FABIA R5 drivers. Nikolay Gryazin/Yaroslav Fedorov (RUS/RUS) won from Chris Ingram/Dave Whittock (GBR/GBR) and Fabian Kreim/Frank Christian (DEU/DEU). On top of that, 17 national Championships were won by ŠKODA crews.



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Overview Titles and Championships won by ŠKODA teams in 2018:

FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)

FIA WRC 2 Champions Driver/Co-driver: Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE)
FIA WRC 2 Team Championship: ŠKODA Motorsport

FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC)

Championship for Driver and Co-driver: Yuya Sumiyama/ Takahiro Yasui (JPN/JPN)
APRC Cup for Manufacturers: ŠKODA
APRC Teams Award: Team Cusco

FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR)

Championship for Driver/Co-driver: Gustavo Saba/Fernando Mussano (PRY/ARG)

FIA African Rally Championship (ARC)

Championship for Driver/Co-driver: Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GB)
ARC Manufacturer Cup: ŠKODA

FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), U28 category

Championship for Driver/Co-driver: Nikolay Gryazin/Yaroslav Fedorov (RUS/RUS)

National Championships

Australia	Eli Evans/Ben Searcy (AUS/AUS)
Belgium	Kris Princen/Bram Eelbode (BEL/BEL)
Bulgaria	Miroslav Angelov/Nidialko Sivov (BGR/BGR)
Croatia	Krisztián Hideg/István Kerék (HRV/HRV)
Cyprus	Simos Galatariotis/Antonis Ioannou (CYP/CYP)
Czech Republic	Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE)
Finland	Eerik Pietarinen/Juhana Raitanen (FIN/FIN)
France (Gravel)	Sylvain Michel (FRA)/Jerome Degout (FRA)
Lebanon	Roger Feghali/Joseph Matar (LBN/LBN)
Netherlands	Hermen Kobus/Erik de Wild (NLD/NLD)
Paraguay	Gustavo Saba/Fernando Mussano (PRY/ARG)
Poland	Grzegorz Grzyb/Jakub Vróbel (POL/POL)
Slovakia	Martin Koči/Radovan Mozner Jun. (SVK/SVK)
Spain (Gravel)	Xavier Pons/Diego Sanjuan (ESP/ESP)
Sweden	Martin Berglund/Joakim Gevert (SWE/SWE)
Switzerland	Ivan Ballinari/Paolo Pianca (CHE/CHE)
Turkey	Burak Cukurova/Vedat Bostanci (TUR/TUR)



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Media images:



ŠKODA Motorsport celebrates successful season

Time to celebrate: ŠKODA crews at the annual Motorsport Press Conference of ŠKODA Motorsport in Prague.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport celebrates successful season

A golden ŠKODA FABIA R5 and WRC 2 Champions Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler honour ŠKODA Motorsport's most successful year in its history. ŠKODA factory drivers conquer top three places of the WRC 2 overall standings.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



The new ŠKODA FABIA R5

ŠKODA Motorsport has today in Prague unveiled the new FABIA R5 and the crews for 2019.

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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. In 2018 Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) managed to win the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the fourth consecutive time.

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.

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