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ADAC Rallye Deutschland: Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler conquer lead for ŠKODA in WRC 2 Pro

- › Despite suffering from a puncture on their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, last year's WRC 2 winners Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler head the category at ADAC Rallye Deutschland
- › ŠKODA teammates Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen slipped off the road and dropped from the lead to third position in the WRC 2 Pro category
- › Enjoying their first rally with the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, Fabian Kreim and Marijan Griebel hold first and second position in the WRC 2 category for private teams

Bosen, 24 August 2019 – Recently crowned Czech Rally champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) moved into the lead of the WRC 2 Pro category during the third day of ADAC Rallye Deutschland (22/08–25/08/2019), tenth round of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019. Their teammates Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) encountered bad luck, when they slipped off the road during the first special stage of the day and dropped from the category lead to third position. In the WRC 2 category for private teams, German ŠKODA crews Fabian Kreim/Tobias Braun and Marijan Griebel/Pirmin Winkhofer hold a double lead going into the last day of the rally.

On Saturday, with eight special stages totalling 157.92 kilometres, the longest day of the ADAC Rallye Deutschland, tenth round of the FIA World Rally Championship, was waiting for the crews. After four fast morning stages on small roads in the Saarland and the Rhineland Palatinate Region, the gruelling military area of Baumholder had to be mastered. The abrasive concrete roads, lined by concrete blocks, the infamous "Hinkelsteins", again proved to be a tough test for men and machines.

The sunny Saturday morning started really bad for Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen, who finished the Friday with a clear lead in the WRC 2 Pro category and on top of that being the quickest R5 crew. During the first Saturday stage, they slid off the road after the last corner, their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo getting stuck in the botanic. Spectators finally pushed them back onto the road. But as they were not many on that spot, it took some time and the Finns lost more than four minutes, dropping them well down the field. "It was a stupid mistake, I didn't have it that narrow in my notes and went too wide and got stuck in the grass. I feel sorry for the team," Kalle Rovanperä explained. It was really not his morning. One stage later, after a jump he slid off the road again and lost another 23 seconds to his teammate Jan Kopecký, who was now comfortably leading the WRC 2 Pro category. "We have to be really focused, because the stages are very tricky – there is a lot of loose gravel everywhere," commented the recently crowned Czech Rally Champion at the midday rest halt at Lake Bostal.

In the afternoon however, the really tough business started. With temperatures above 30 degrees and even higher inside the rally cars, the 103.8 kilometres on the famous "Panzerplatte" promised to be really hot. Jan Kopecký defended his lead despite a puncture on the last stage of the day. Meanwhile, Kalle Rovanperä took no risks with his ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo in order to secure the manufacturers' and drivers' points in the WRC 2 Pro category. At the end of the day, he had moved from fourth to third position.



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In the WRC 2 category for private teams, Fabian Kreim (German champion 2016 and 2017) and reigning German champion Marijan Griebel, both being supported by ŠKODA Auto Deutschland, secured a double lead on their first event with the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo.

Sunday (25 August) tops up the competitive route to a total of 19 tests covering 344.04 kilometres. The winner will reach the podium at Lake Bostal on Sunday at around 14h00.

Standings ADAC Rallye Deutschland after Day 3 (WRC 2 Pro/WRC 2)

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, 2:36:36.5 h*
2. Camilli/Veillas (FRA/FRA), Ford Fiesta R5 MKII, +34.0 sec.*
3. Kreim/Braun (GER/GER), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +1:05.4 min.
4. Griebel/Winklhofer (GER/GER), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +1:22.3 min.
5. Kajetanowicz/Szcepianiak (POL/POL), VW Polo GTI R5, +1:30.8 min.
6. Andolfi/Scattolin (ITA/ITA), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +1:44.9 min.
7. Rovanperä/Halttunen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, 3:20.8 min*
8. Østberg/Eriksen (NOR/NOR), Citroën C3 R5, +4:01.3 min*

**Factory nominated crews eligible to score points in the WRC 2 Pro category*

Number of the day: 41.17

The longest stage of the ADAC Rallye Deutschland, the famous "Panzerplatte", was running over 41.17 kilometres.

The calendar of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2 Pro)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Monte-Carlo	24/01–27/01/2019
Sweden	14/02–17/02/2019
Mexico	07/03–10/03/2019
France	28/03–31/03/2019
Argentina	25/04–28/04/2019
Chile	09/05–12/05/2019
Portugal	30/05–02/06/2019
Italy	13/06–16/06/2019
Finland	01/08–04/08/2019
Germany	22/08–25/08/2019
Turkey	12/09–15/09/2019
Great Britain	03/10–06/10/2019
Spain	24/10–27/10/2019
Australia	14/11–17/11/2019

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ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland

After day three of the German WRC round, ŠKODA works crew Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) lead the WRC 2 Pro category

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland

Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen dropped from the category lead down to third position in WRC 2 Pro after they slid off the road with their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo. They still have the chance to secure valuable championship points

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

2018 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport so far. Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) became WRC 2 champions and managed to win the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the fourth consecutive time. 2017 WRC 2 winners Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson finished second overall, and youngsters Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) completed 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.

The success story of the Czech brand took place worldwide. The private ŠKODA driver Yuya Sumiyama and navigator Takahiro Yasui from Japan won the 2018 FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) took the title win in the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC). 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. On top of that, ŠKODA crews won 17 national championships.

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.

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.

ŠKODA AUTO

- › was founded during the pioneering days of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established automobile companies in the world.
- › currently offers its customers nine passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ, as well as the KAMIQ and the SUPERB.
- › delivered more than 1.25 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2018.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. In association with the Group, ŠKODA AUTO independently develops and manufactures vehicles, as well as components such as engines and transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs over 39,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer to the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.