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Page 1 of 4

Rally Turkey: ŠKODA's Kalle Rovanperä and Jan Kopecký are facing with their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo toughest WRC rally of the year

- › WRC 2 Pro category leaders Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) compete for the first time on the gruelling gravel roads of Marmaris area
- › Last year's WRC 2 winners Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler want to win the category again at the eleventh round of the FIA World Rally Championship
- › ŠKODA Motorsport currently leads both WRC 2 Pro drivers' and manufacturers' championship

Mladá Boleslav, 10 September 2019 – Kalle Rovanperä, co-driver Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) and the ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo travel as solid leaders of the WRC 2 Pro category to the eleventh round of the FIA World Rally Championship, the Rally Turkey Marmaris (12/09–15/09/2019). Together with their teammates Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE), who won the category at the toughest WRC gravel event last year, they are fighting to score maximum points for ŠKODA Motorsport in the WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' championship. Since homologation in April 2019, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo of the factory team are unbeaten whenever they appeared in competition.

Last year, Rally Turkey Marmaris was for the first time part of the FIA World Rally Championship. The area around the holiday resort of Marmaris impressed with tough gravel roads, which proved to be a real test for men and machines. "On some stages, it was just about to survive and bring the car in one piece to the finish. But I have good memories looking back on last year's event. By winning the category, I could lay a cornerstone for my 2018 WRC 2 title win", says Jan Kopecký, who recently together with co-driver Pavel Dresler won the WRC 2 Pro category at the German WRC round.

Overall, ŠKODA works crew Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen is in a commanding lead of the WRC 2 Pro category after four category wins, two second places and one third position. "I have a big respect towards the tough gravel roads of Turkey, which I know so far only from studying video footage. It looks like it is all about avoiding punctures. But the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo already proved to be ultra-reliable on the similar demanding gravel tracks of Rally Portugal and Rally Italy/Sardinia. Of course, I wish to win, but I know Jan and Pavel will sell their lives dearly," Rovanperä says. Rally Turkey will be the 25th start for Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen together.

Rally Turkey Marmaris starts on Thursday (12 September) at 20h08 with a two kilometres long show stage in downtown Marmaris. Friday (13 September) features the longest leg of the rally with six stages totalling 159.04 kilometres. Saturday (14 September) brings six more stages over 110.10 kilometres. After 17 tests totalling 310.10 kilometres, the winner will reach the podium in Marmaris on Sunday (15 September) at around 14h15. In the field of the 17 R5 cars, ŠKODA is with 12 entries by far the strongest brand.

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Page 2 of 4

Did you know,

...that Turkey held its first international rally back in 1972, starting and finishing in Istanbul?

...that in 1999, the idea of creating an all-new event as WRC candidate was born and the first Rally Turkey took place in 2000, based in Izmir?

...that Rally Turkey, based in Antalya/Kemer, debuted in 2003 as part of the FIA World Rally Championship with only 26 of 60 entries finishing?

...that in 2010 the rally moved to the region near Istanbul and left the championship afterwards, returning to the WRC calendar in 2018 as a replacement for Rally Poland?

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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Page 3 of 4

Media images:



ŠKODA at Rally Turkey Marmaris 2019

ŠKODA works crew Kalle Rovannerä/Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) goes into to the eleventh round of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship in Turkey with a commanding lead of the WRC 2 Pro category.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at Rally Turkey Marmaris 2019

In 2018, Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler won the category at Rally Turkey. Driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, they are among the top favourites this year as well.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

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 Rovannerä/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.

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Page 4 of 4

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.

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