



ŠKODA
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ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 1 of 3

ŠKODA Motorsport celebrates with 30 title wins the most successful year in its history

- › ŠKODA Motorsport is looking back to an outstanding 2019 season in the FIA World Rally Championship, winning all titles of the WRC 2 Pro category
- › Season's end gathering in Prague also celebrated five FIA rally championships and 23 national titles won by ŠKODA customer teams
- › 2019 WRC 2 Pro drivers' and co-drivers' champions Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen leave ŠKODA Motorsport after two successful years

Mladá Boleslav/Prague, 11 December 2019 – During the annual motorsport press conference in Prague **ŠKODA Motorsport reflected on the most successful year in its 118 years of history**. Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) won the WRC 2 Pro drivers' and co-drivers' title of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019 as well as substantially supporting ŠKODA Motorsport to win the WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' title. After two successful years, they will leave the Czech factory team, heading for a new challenge. Also in 2019, ŠKODA customer teams conquered five FIA championships and took additional 23 national titles around the world.

In spring 2019, the Czech brand introduced the ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo. The new rally car was a winner right from the start. Factory crew Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen won both WRC 2 Pro drivers' and co-drivers' championship of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship. At the same time, ŠKODA Motorsport took the WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' title, also thanks to the support of Jan Kopecký, co-driven by Pavel Dresler and Jan Hloušek respectively. ŠKODA customer crew Pierre-Louis Loubet/Vincent Landais (FRA/FRA) won the WRC 2 championship for private teams.

The success story of the Czech brand again took place worldwide. Driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, Chris Ingram/Ross Whittock (GBR/GBR) won FIA European Rally Championship (ERC). Filip Mareš/Jan Hloušek (CZE/CZE) took the FIA European Rally Championship/ERC1 Junior title. Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) powered a ŠKODA FABIA R5 to the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), while Ricardo Triviño/Marc Martí (MEX/ESP) won the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM). On top of that, ŠKODA crews conquered 23 national championships.

The successful campaign of the factory team in international rallying also acts as a catalyst for customer interest, which is growing by the day. To date, more than 320 ŠKODA FABIA R5 rally cars have been sold to privateer teams and ŠKODA importers around the world. "This impressive number of sales means a big responsibility towards our customers," emphasizes ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek.



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Page 2 of 3

After a successful 2019, Christian Strube, Head of Technical Development ŠKODA AUTO, gave an outlook to the future and emphasized: "An even bigger focus will be on our customers – and we will support young drivers, as we have already successfully done in the past. With our fast and reliable ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, we have the right car to compete on a top level on the rally tracks worldwide and to make the 119th year in our motorsport history together with our great team successful again!"

ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek bid farewell to Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen, who are not competing with ŠKODA any more: "We had two successful seasons with Kalle and Jonne; it was a pleasure to have them in our team. We wish them all the best for their future. Now we are fully concentrated on preparing the next rally season properly."

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ŠKODA celebrates the most successful year in its motorsport history

A podium full of winners: In 2019, ŠKODA crews conquered all the titles of the WRC 2 Pro championship plus five FIA titles and 23 national championships.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA celebrates the most successful year in its motorsport history

WRC 2 Pro Champions Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) at the annual ŠKODA Motorsport gathering in Prague together with ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek and Moderator Gemma Scott

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ŠKODA
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Page 3 of 3

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.

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 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 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.