

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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ŠKODA features own “Ice Race of Champions” at Austrian winter-sport resort in Zell am See-Kaprun

- › Driving 290 hp strong racing versions of the ŠKODA FABIA, four international rally aces participate in the GP Ice Race at Zell am See-Kaprun (01–02 February 2020)
- › European Junior Rally Champion (ERC1) Filip Mareš, Slovakian Champion Martin Koči, German Champion Fabian Kreim and Austrian Championship runner-up Julian Wagner compete against each other on an ice race track
- › During the first weekend of February, unique GP Ice Race features stunning action with roughly 150 participants in historic and modern race and rally cars

Mladá Boleslav, 30 January 2020 – ŠKODA will bring three rally champions plus one vice-champion to the GP Ice Race at Austria’s Zell am See-Kaprun (01–02 February 2020), racing each other in a competition called “Ice Race of Champions” and alternating at the wheel of some 290 hp strong all-wheel driven ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. The ŠKODA FABIA rally version, before it was renamed due to a regulation change known as ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo. Filip Mareš from Czech Republic is the 2019 Junior Champion (ERC1) of the European Rally Championship, while Martin Koči (Slovakia) and Fabian Kreim (Germany) won titles in their respective home countries. Local hero Julian Wagner finished the Austrian Rally Championship 2019 as runner-up.

Jan Kopecký, 2019 GP Ice Race category winner with a ŠKODA FABIA, WRC2 Champion of 2018 and seven times Czech Rally Champion, enjoys a new role at the GP Ice Race 2020. He will coach the young guns and is on top of that expected to throw in some action of his own with demonstration runs.

Julian Wagner, who led the 2019 Austrian Rally Championship for most of the season before bad luck during the final round relegated him to second, is the only driver of the “Ice Race of Champions”, who can build on some experience with studded tyres on the Zell am See ice track. He impressed with fast times already during last years’ edition. Filip Mareš from Czech Republic made 2019 the most successful year of his career by winning the ERC1 Junior Category of the FIA European Rally Championship. He cannot wait to compete in Zell am See-Kaprun. “I have to thank ŠKODA Motorsport for giving me the great opportunity to entertain the visitors of the popular GP Ice Race with the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo before the new season really starts,” he says.

Besides local hero Julian Wagner, ERC champion Mareš has to face two more tough competitors coming from national championships. Martin Koči (SVK) won the Slovakian Rally Championship twice in a row (2018 and 2019), Fabian Kreim (GER) conquered three titles in Germany (2016, 2017 and 2019). The expected thousands of fans can look for stunning action by the young guns. They fight for the “Ice Race of Champions” victory on equal terms – each of them is driving a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, technically identical and prepared by the factory team.

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ŠKODA at the GP Ice Race in Zell am See-Kaprun

ŠKODA's Jan Kopecký entertained the crowds last year, winning his category at GP Ice Race.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at the GP Ice Race in Zell am See-Kaprun

Filip Mareš, Martin Koči, Fabian Kreim and Julian Wagner will fight with identical, factory prepared ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo for the victory at the "Ice Race of Champions".

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

2019 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport so far. In 2019, the Czech brand introduced the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo. Factory crew Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen won both WRC2 Pro drivers' and co-drivers' championship of the FIA World Rally Championship while ŠKODA Motorsport took the WRC2 Pro manufacturers' title. ŠKODA customer crew Pierre-Louis Loubet/Vincent Landais won the WRC2 championship for private teams.

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

The ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation (FIA) on 1 April 2019. The Czech rally car is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport.

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 (WRC2) 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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- › is this year celebrating 125 years since the company was founded during the pioneering era of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established car manufacturers 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 1.24 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2019.
- › 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 42,000 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.