

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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ŠKODA Motorsport customer racing: From Mladá Boleslav to rallies around the world

- › When ŠKODA Motorsport customer racing travels to rallies worldwide, a sophisticated logistics guarantees smooth running of each event
- › In the FIA World Rally Championship 2020, ŠKODA Motorsport cooperates with the team of Oliver Solberg and further improves the customer service

Mladá Boleslav, 07 May 2020 – Because of the Coronavirus, all sporting events like the Olympic Games, UEFA Euro 2020 or the Football Champions League matches and Formula One races have been postponed or even cancelled. While the FIA World Rally Championship is on a break as well, we took a look behind the curtain at ŠKODA Motorsport to find out what it takes to provide the best possible service to the customers worldwide. A drive with the ŠKODA Motorsport convoy to the Rally Sweden in the mid of February gave us the information what is logistically needed.

At the headquarter of ŠKODA Motorsport in the outskirts of Mladá Boleslav, around 100 employees are working under one roof. When the cooperation with Oliver Solberg's team started at Rally Sweden in mid-February, a lot of logistical work and paper work had already been done. The entry – the formal registration for Oliver Solberg and co-driver Aaron Johnston (competing with a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) into the second round for the FIA World Rally Championship 2020 – had to be done by Oliver's team already by 14 January 2020.

After completion of the roll-out, the final check of the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo in Mladá Boleslav, a convoy from ŠKODA Motorsport started exactly one week before the start of Rally Sweden (13/02–16/02/2020) the long journey. The convoy which left Mladá Boleslav consisted of an 18 metres long semi-trailer, a van with trailer and a minibus with the race car in the trailer.

A fully equipped workshop on wheels

For Rally Sweden, the semi-trailer carried spare parts including mechanical components like suspension, gear boxes, differentials, brakes, rims and body parts like bumpers, windscreens, bonnets, fenders and doors. Theoretically, the mechanics can rebuild two rally cars with the spare parts carried by the rolling service centre. Simply everything is on board, which can be changed within the allowed service time of 30 or 45 minutes respectively. The only component, which by regulation is not allowed to change during an WRC event, is the entire engine of the rally car.

The semi-trailer carries its own power station, 450 litres of water for washing the rally car, a lathe, a grinder and a tyre changer. With the experience of many years on rallies worldwide, the ŠKODA Motorsport customer racing service truck has been designed and custom-built.

With more than 500 horse power and a displacement of 15.6 litres, the SCANIA engine is more powerful than the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo 1.6-litre turbo engine offering around 290 horse power. But with 25,000 kilograms, the weight of the truck is more than 20 times higher than the rally car (1,230 kg minimum weight due to the FIA regulation).

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One-way more than 1,000 kilometres on the road plus ferry transfer

After roughly 750 kilometres, the ŠKODA Motorsport truck and vans had reached the port of Kiel in the north of Germany to take an overnight ferry to Gothenburg in Sweden. After another 320 kilometres on the road, the ŠKODA convoy reached Torsby. Each road of the whole route had been checked beforehand. The main concern: Minimum headroom for example of bridges had to fit to the height of the semi-trailer.

On Sunday before Rally Sweden (9 February), Oliver Solberg and co-driver Aaron Johnston did check the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 during the last pre-event test. On the following day, the service park was opened and the ŠKODA Motorsport team together with the crew from Oliver Solberg Racing prepared the mobile workshop, including the tent for the service area plus a spacious hospitality compound. Until the end of the rally on Sunday, it was the home for all team members. Immediately after the rally finish on Sunday afternoon, the dismantling of the service area started and right afterwards, the ŠKODA convoy headed back to its home base in Mladá Boleslav.

The calendar of the 2020 FIA World Rally Championship

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Monte-Carlo	23/01–26/01/2020
Sweden	13/02–16/02/2020
Mexico	12/03–15/03/2020
(Argentina	23/04–26/04/2020*)
Portugal	21/05–24/05/2020 cancelled*
(Italy	04/06–07/06/2020*)
Kenya	16/07–19/07/2020
Finland	06/08–09/08/2020
New Zealand	03/09–06/09/2020
Turkey	24/09–27/09/2020
Germany	15/10–18/10/2020
Great Britain	29/10–01/11/2020
Japan	19/11–22/11/2020

**Events postponed due to the fight against the spread of the Coronavirus*

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Media images:



ŠKODA Motorsport customer racing: From Mladá Boleslav to rallies around the world

The ŠKODA Motorsport customer racing service truck at the Rally Sweden, second round of the FIA World Rally Championship 2020

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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ŠKODA Motorsport customer racing (from left): Team Manager Pavel Horteck, Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek and David Jareš (responsible for ŠKODA Motorsport's customer program)

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport customer racing: From Mladá Boleslav to rallies around the world

The ŠKODA Motorsport customer racing service truck is present on selected events of the FIA World Rally Championship 2020

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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.

ŠKODA AUTO

- › 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 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.