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Rally Italia Sardegna: ŠKODA privateer Pontus Tidemand wins WRC2 and extends overall lead

- › Swedish crew of Pontus Tidemand and co-driver Patrik Barth (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) tops category standings at FIA World Rally Championship's sixth round
- › Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL) brings his ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo home in second place in WRC3 and keeps title hopes alive with two more rallies to go
- › ŠKODA Motorsport supported Oliver Solberg (SWE) and co-driver Aaron Johnston (IRL) finish sixth in WRC3 after re-start for final leg

Alghero, 11 October 2020 – Pontus Tidemand (SWE) made a big step towards his second WRC2 title. Driving a privately entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, the 2017 champion and co-driver Patrik Barth (SWE) won the WRC2 category at Rally Italia Sardegna (9-11 October 2020). With two rounds of the 2020 FIA World Rally Championship left, Tidemand leads the overall standings by 18 points. In WRC3, Polish ŠKODA privateer Kajetan Kajetanowicz consolidated third overall position with second in category. ŠKODA Motorsport supported Oliver Solberg (SWE) and co-driver Aaron Johnston (IRL) finished sixth in WRC3 after a re-start for the final leg.

With a strategically clever drive Pontus Tidemand secured his third WRC2 victory of the season. He took the category lead during leg one, when early leader Adrien Fourmaux (Ford) suffered a puncture. Never putting a foot wrong in the Toksport WRT entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Tidemand managed the lead until the finish after 16 stages totalling 238.84 kilometres. "I'm very happy winning WRC2 on my Rally Italia Sardegna debut," he said. "It wasn't easy being first of the category on the road for the whole rally. We had a safe strategy and followed it strictly. So for the championship, this result is very good." The WRC2 champion from 2017 extended his WRC2 overall lead to 18 points from Mads Østberg (Citroën). Competing in the second Toksport WRT ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, the Norwegian-Austrian mixed-team of Eyvind Brynildsen/Ilka Minor finished a fine third in WRC2.

Despite competing in the Rally Italia Sardegna for the first time, ŠKODA Motorsport supported Oliver Solberg (SWE) led the WRC3 category for the most part of two days. His hopes for victory disappeared, when he put his ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo into a ditch during the second leg's last stage. After a re-start on Sunday, the 19 years old Swede and co-driver Aaron Johnston (IRL) finally came sixth in WRC3. Four steps higher finished Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Macej Szczepaniak. The ŠKODA privateers from Poland even had the category win in sight. But a puncture during the rally's penultimate stage cost them over a minute.

"Congratulations to Pontus and Patrik for their WRC2 victory. Now Pontus is in a very good position to win the WRC2 title as well. Oliver and Aaron were quite unlucky indeed. However, they are still very young and can learn a lot from a situation like this. Nevertheless, they impressively showed their speed," ŠKODA Motorsport team manager Pavel Horteck commented.

Next round of the FIA World Rally Championship is scheduled for 19-22 November. Host will be the picturesque Belgian town of Ypres.



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Final result Rally Italia Sardegna (WRC2)

1. Tidemand/Barth (SWE/SWE), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 2:51.58.4 hrs.
2. Veiby/Andersson (NOR/SWE), Hyundai i20 Rally2, +28.8 sec.
3. Brynildsen/Minor (NOR/AUT), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +49.7 sec.
4. Østberg/Eriksen (NOR/NOR), Citroën C3 Rally2, +2:08.3 min.

Championship Standings WRC2 (after 6 of 8 rounds)

1. Pontus Tidemand (SWE), ŠKODA, 105 points
2. Mads Østberg (NOR), Citroën, 87 points
3. Adrien Fourmaux (FRA), Ford, 66 points

Final result Rally Italia Sardegna (WRC3)

1. Huttunen/Lukka (FIN/FIN), Hyundai i20 Rally2, 2:50:19.2 hrs.
2. Kajetanowicz/Szczepaniak (POL/POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +1:21.2 min.
3. Bulacia Wilkinson/Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG), Citroën C3 Rally2, +2:07.5 min.
4. Scandola/D'Amore (ITA/ITA), Hyundai i20 Rally2, +5:45.3 min.
5. Heller/Marti (CHL/ESP), Ford Fiesta Mk II Rally2, +9:36.3 min.
6. Solberg/Johnston (SWE/IRL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +10:15.0 min.

Championship Standings WRC3 (after 6 of 8 rounds)

1. Marco Bulacia Wilkinson (BOL), Citroën, 70 points
2. Jari Huttunen (FIN), Hyundai, 68 points
3. Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL), ŠKODA, 55 points
4. Oliver Solberg (SWE), ŠKODA, 43 points

Number of the day: 0

In rough rallies, cleverness often is the best solution. Pontus Tidemand/Patrik Barth (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) didn't need to score a single WRC2 stage win to take the category victory.

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
Estonia	04/09–06/09/2020
Turkey	18/09–20/09/2020
Italy	08/10–11/10/2020
Belgium	19/11–22/11/2020
Monza/Italy	04/12–06/12/2020

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ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Italia Sardegna

Video of the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews Solberg/Johnston (SWE/IRL), Tidemand/Barth (SWE/SWE), Kajetanowicz/Szczepaniak (POL/POL) and Brynildsen/Minor (NOR/AUT)

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Italia Sardegna

Swedish duo Pontus Tidemand/Patrik Barth (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) celebrated their third WRC2 victory of the season, Tidemand extending his WRC2 overall lead

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Italia Sardegna

ŠKODA Motorsport supported Oliver Solberg/Aaron Johnston (SWE/IRL) brought their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo home sixth in WRC3

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ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Italia Sardegna

With second place in WRC3, Polish privateer Kajetan Kajetanowicz (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) consolidated third place in the overall standings

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ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

2019 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport so far. 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. Also in 2019, ŠKODA customer teams conquered five FIA championships and took additional 23 national titles around the world.

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).

The ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2019 and is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. In total, both generations of the Czech rally car have been sold more than 320 times worldwide.

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

- › 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 ten passenger-car series: the CITIGO^e iV, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ and ENYAQ iV.
- › delivered 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 approximately 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.

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