

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Arctic Rally Finland: ŠKODA Motorsport supported Andreas Mikkelsen increases WRC2 overall lead

- › Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) from Norway finish category second on first ever world championship winter rally in Finland
- › Team mates Eyvind Brynildsen/Veronica Gulbæk Engan (NOR/NOR) in category fourth bag even more points for defending WRC2 Team Champion Toksport WRT
- › Finnish ŠKODA customer team Teemu Asunmaa/Marko Salminen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) wins WRC3 category reserved for private crews
- › Next round is another FIA World Rally Championship premiere: Rally Croatia, 22 – 25 April

Rovaniemi (FIN), 28 February 2021 – Finishing Arctic Rally Finland (26 – 28 February 2021) in category second, Norwegians Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) increased their overall lead in the FIA World Rally Championship's WRC2 standings. Toksport WRT team mates Eyvind Brynildsen/Veronica Gulbæk Engan (NOR/NOR) took fourth WRC2 position in the series' first ever winter rally in Finland. On snow and ice covered forest roads close to the Arctic Circle, local heroes Teemu Asunmaa/Marko Salminen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) won WRC3, the category reserved for pure private crews.

With the category win from the season opening Rallye Monte-Carlo and second place on this weekend's Arctic Rally Finland, Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) clearly top the overall standings of WRC2. After the second round of the 2021 FIA World Rally Championship, which came into the calendar as late replacement for cancelled Rally Sweden, the ŠKODA Motorsport supported Norwegians lead with a 24 points advantage from Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN). "I like competition, but this weekend I couldn't really match the speed of Esapekka. Second best was all I could do," Mikkelsen congratulated WRC2 winner Lappi. "It looks, like we have some work to do to improve the car's setup on loose surface events."

Team mates Eyvind Brynildsen/Veronica Gulbæk Engan (NOR/NOR) finished the Rovaniemi based event fourth in WRC2, adding more championship points to the tally of reigning WRC2 Team Champion Toksport WRT. "I'm happy with the points scored by both crews. Great from Andreas to win the Power Stage, he was also clever enough to bring second place to the finish. Considered that Eyvind came into the car on short notice, he also delivered a very good job," team principal Serkan Duru commented.

ŠKODA customer teams dominated proceedings in WRC3, the category reserved for pure private crews. Seven of the top ten cars in the final result sport the logo of the Czech brand. In first place: Teemu Asunmaa/Marko Salminen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo), who took the lead during the second leg and defended it to the finish after ten stages. The Finns are now share the lead in the WRC3 overall standings, equal on points with Rallye Monte-Carlo winners Rossel/Fulcrand from France. Mikko Heikkilä and co-driver Topi Luhtinen, also driving a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo and from Finland as well, made it to the last step on the Arctic Rally Finland podium. Former FIA World Rallycross Champion Mattias Ekström (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) from Sweden finished his first world championship event after a 15 years break fifth in WRC3.

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The next round of the 2021 FIA World Rally Championship is another newcomer to the series' calendar. From 22 to 25 April, the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews and their competitors meet again at the all-asphalt Rally Croatia, based in the country's capital Zagreb.

## Result Arctic Rally Finland (WRC2)

1. Lappi/Ferm (FIN/FIN), VW Polo GTI Rally2, 2:05:56.6 hrs.
2. **Mikkelsen/Fløene (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +47.7 sec.**
3. Gryazin/Aleksandrov (RAF/RAF), VW Polo GTI Rally 2, +1:30.3 min.
4. **Brynildsen/ Gulbæk Engan (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +2:44.9 min.**
5. Veiby/Andersson (NOR/SWE), Hyundai NG i20 Rally2, +2:54.2 min.
6. Prokop/Ernst (CZE/CZE), Ford Fiesta MkII Rally2, +7:00.1 min.

## Championship Standings WRC2/Drivers and co-drivers (after 2 rounds)

1. **Mikkelsen/Fløene (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 53 points**
2. Lappi/Ferm (FIN/FIN), VW Polo GTI Rally2, 29 points
3. Fourmaux/Jamoul (FRA/BEL), Ford Fiesta Rally2, 25 points
4. Camilli/Buresi (FRA/FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 17 points
5. Gryazin/ Aleksandrov (RAF/RAF), VW Polo GTI Rally 2, 17 points

## Result Arctic Rally Finland (WRC3)

1. **Asunmaa/Salminen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 2:11:55.3 hrs.**
2. Kaur/Simm (EST/EST), VW Polo GTI Rally2, +4.2 sec.
3. **Heikkilä/Luhtinen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +1:38.6 min.**

## Championship Standings WRC3/Drivers and co-drivers (after 2 rounds)

1. Rossel/Fulcrand (FRA/FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 28 points
2. **Asunmaa/Salminen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 28 points**
3. Kaur/Simm (EST/EST), VW Polo GTI Rally2, 23 points

## Number of the day: 126.2

Stage "Aittajärvi 2" was the fastest of Arctic Rally Finland. Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) flew through the 22.47 kilometres long Power Stage with an average speed of 126.2 kph – on a fully snow and ice covered road.

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## 2021 FIA World Rally Championship

Rallye Monte-Carlo	21 – 24 January
<b>Arctic Rally Finland</b>	<b>26 – 28 February</b>
Rally Croatia	22 – 25 April
Vodafone Rally Portugal	20 – 23 May
Rally Italia Sardegna	3 – 6 June
Safari Rally Kenya	24 – 27 June
Rally Estonia	15 – 18 July
Rally Finland	29 July – 1 August
Renties Ypres Rally Belgium	13 – 15 August
COPEC Rally Chile	9 – 12 September
RallyRACC Rally de España	14 – 17 October
Rally Japan	11 –14 November

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### ŠKODA Motorsport:



### Media images:



#### ŠKODA Motorsport at Arctic Rally Finland

ŠKODA Motorsport supported Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Fløene (NOR/NOR) drove the Toksport WRT entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to second WRC2 position, scoring extra points by winning the Power Stage

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



#### ŠKODA Motorsport at Arctic Rally Finland

ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew Andreas Mikkelsen (right) and co-driver Ola Fløene from Norway leads WRC2 overall standings after two rounds of the 2021 FIA World Rally Championship

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

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## ŠKODA Motorsport at Arctic Rally Finland

Toksport WRT guest crew Eyvind Brynildsen/Veronica Gulbæk Engan (NOR/NOR) drove the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to fourth in WRC2

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



## ŠKODA Motorsport at Arctic Rally Finland

Finnish ŠKODA customer crew Teemu Asunmaa/Marko Salminen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) won WRC3 and now share the overall lead in this category

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



## ŠKODA Motorsport at Arctic Rally Finland

Coming back to WRC after a 15 years break, 2016 FIA World Rallycross Champion Mattias Ekström, sharing his own ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo with fellow Swede Emil Bergkvist, finished fifth in WRC3

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

## ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been successful in motorsports since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include victory in the European Touring Car Championship 1981 as well as multiple titles in the FIA World Rally Championship's WRC2 category. Over the years, ŠKODA customer teams also won numerous national championships as well as titles in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the der Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC). ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Rallye Monte-Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

In 2009, the ŠKODA FABIA SUPER 2000 took the rally scene by storm. The following seasons, the all-wheel-drive rally car with a 2.0 litres normally aspirated engine won 50 national and international titles worldwide. It then wrote the most successful chapter in ŠKODA's motorsport history – until its successor surpassed it. The ŠKODA FABIA R5, a production-based rally car with four-wheel drive and 1.6 litres turbo engine, was homologated in its original form by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. Further developed to ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo (homologated on 1 April 2019), the high-tech car successfully continues the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. Due to changes in regulations, the car was re-named ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo in 2020.

The success story of the ŠKODA FABIA R5 took off in 2016, when Esapekka Lappi (FIN) won the WRC2 drivers' title of the FIA World Rally Championship. The following year, Pontus Tidemand (SWE) won the WRC2 drivers' category, while ŠKODA Motorsport took the WRC2 manufacturers' title. In 2018, ŠKODA factory driver Jan Kopecký was crowned WRC 2 drivers' champion. 2019 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport. Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) won the WRC2 Pro drivers' and co-drivers' title as well as substantially supporting ŠKODA Motorsport to win the WRC2 Pro manufacturers' title. In 2020 ŠKODA customer team Toksport WRT became Team Champion of the WRC2 category.

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## ŠKODA AUTO

- › is focusing on three priorities with the "NEXT LEVEL ŠKODA" program for the future: expanding the model portfolio in the direction of entry-level segments, opening up new markets for further growth in the volume segment, and making concrete progress in sustainability and diversity.
- › currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the CITIGO® iV, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ and ENYAQ iV.
- › delivered more than one million vehicles to customers around the world in 2020.
- › is part of Volkswagen Group since 30 years. 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 with a local partner.
- › employs approximately 42,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.