

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Rally Italia Sardegna: Podium results in WRC2 and WRC3 for ŠKODA Motorsport customer teams

- › Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT bring their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo home third in WRC2
- › Rally Team Spain's Pepe Lopéz and co-driver Diego Vallejo (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) finish in category second on only their second WRC3 event
- › Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Fløene (NOR/NOR) had to retire after rolling their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo but still lead WRC2 overall

**Olbia (ITA), 6 June 2021 – Two ŠKODA Motorsport customer crews reached podium positions in WRC2 and WRC3 category at Rally Italia Sardegna (3 – 6 June 2021), fifth round of the FIA World Rally Championship. Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) of team Toksport WRT came third in WRC2. After 20 stages covering 303.10 kms, Rally Team Spain's Pepe Lopéz and co-driver Diego Vallejo brought their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo home in second position in WRC3.**

The second gravel rally of the 2021 season brought lots of drama not only in the overall classification but in support categories WRC2 and WRC3 as well. While mostly extremely rough and rocky, the stages also surprised with numerous water splashes. Overall, the conditions demanded clever tactics from the crews. Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) of team Toksport WRT finished third in WRC2 – but only after surviving a roll during the last leg. "It was a very fast roll. Just one time and we continued immediately," he explained after losing as little as 4.9 seconds to the category's winning time in stage 18. Without any major damage to their car, Bulacia/Der Ohannesian tackled the remaining stages and reached the finish still third in WRC2.

For Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Fløene the rally was over after four stages. Getting their rolled ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo back onto four wheels with the help from spectators, the Norwegians made it back to service. But closer inspection discovered structural damage to the car's roll cage. For safety reasons, the car was withdrawn by the team. Despite this setback, Andreas Mikkelsen still leads the WRC2 drivers' standings overall.

Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak, who came to Sardinia after back-to-back WRC3 victories in Croatia and Portugal, were locked in a duel with their old rivals Yohan Rossel/Alexandre Coria right from the start. But during the last stage of Friday, the Polish crew in the RaceSeven run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo slid into a ditch. "The car had no damage at all. But unfortunately there were no spectators around to push it back onto the road," Kajetanowicz explained. Kajetanowicz/Szczepaniak returned to the action with a re-start on Saturday. Stage after stage they climbed the result list, with posting the second fastest WRC3 time in the Powerstage finally saving eight drivers' championship points with eighth in WRC3.

Pepe Lopéz (ESP) and co-driver Diego Valleja (ESP) started their only second WRC3 outing with a bang. After stage 5, the Rally Team Spain ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo was leading WRC3. Although losing top spot soon after, they managed to stay out of trouble for the rest of the rally, finally stepping onto the WRC3 podium as second of the category. The good performance of private ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews in WRC3 was completed by Fabrizio Zaldívar/Carlos del Barrio

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(PAR/ESP) in fourth and Emilio Fernández/Ruben Garcia (CHL/ARG) in fifth. Enrico Brazzoli/Danilo Fappani (ITA/ITA) in another private ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo finished fifth in WRC2.

Next up on the FIA World Rally Championship calendar is one of the all-time classics – the Safari Rally Kenya (24 – 27 June 2021). The epic East African event makes a WRC comeback after nearly 20 years. After the start in the country's capital Nairobi the teams head to the gruelling gravel stages of the Rift Valley.

## Result Rally Italia Sardegna (WRC2)

1. Huttunen/ Lukka (FIN/FIN), Hyundai i20 R5, +3:28:58.1 hrs.
2. Østberg/Eriksen (NOR/NOR), Citroën C3 Rally2, +7.5 sec.
3. **Bulacia/Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +2:02.9 min.**
4. Prokop/Jůrka (CZE/CZE), Ford Fiesta Rally2, +7:53.4 min.
5. **Brazzoli/Fappani (ITA/ITA), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +28:51.5 min.**

## Championship Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 5 rounds)

1. **Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 68 points**
2. Mads Østberg (NOR), Citroën C3 Rally2, 66 points
3. **Marco Bulacia (BOL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 63 points**

## Result Rally Italia Sardegna (WRC3)

1. Rossel/Coria (FRA/FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 3:30:04.1 hrs.
2. **Lopéz/Vallejo (ESP/ESP), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +26.0 sec.**
3. Solans/Sanjuan (ESP/ESP), Citroën C3 Rally2, +48.6 sec.
4. **Zaldivar/Del Barrio (PAR/ESP), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +4:46.4 min.**
5. **Fernández/Garcia (CHL/ARG), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +6:35.7 min.**
- .....
8. **Kajetanowicz/Szczepaniak (POL/POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +10:29.9 min.**

## Championship Standings WRC3/Drivers (after 5 rounds)

1. Yohan Rossel (FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 98 points
2. **Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 64 points**
3. Nicolas Ciamin (FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 57 points

## Number of the rally: 4.9

Despite rolling their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo in stage 18, Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) somehow managed to lose not more 4.9 seconds to the fastest WRC2 time.

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## 2021 FIA World Rally Championship

Rallye Monte-Carlo	21 – 24 January
Arctic Rally Finland powered by CapitalBox	26 – 28 February
Rally Croatia	22 – 25 April
Vodafone Rally Portugal	20 – 23 May
<b>Rally Italia Sardegna</b>	<b>3 – 6 June</b>
Safari Rally Kenya	24 – 27 June
Rally Estonia	15 – 18 July
Renties Ypres Rally Belgium	13 – 15 August
Acropolis Rally Greece	9 – 12 September
Rally Finland	30 September – 3 October
RallyRACC Rally de España	14 – 17 October
Rally Japan	11 – 14 November

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#### ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Italia Sardegna

Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) of drove the Toksport WRT ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to their third WRC2 podium of the season

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



#### ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Italia Sardegna

Great result for only their second WRC3 outing: Pepe López (ESP) and Diego Valleja (ESP) of Rally Team Spain brought the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew to the finish second in WRC3

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## ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Italia Sardegna

After a restart, private ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak (POL/POL) saved a couple of WRC3 points with eighth position of the category

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## ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Italia Sardegna

Fabrizio Zaldivar/Carlos del Barrio (PAR/ESP) finished fourth in WRC3 in the Toksport WRT ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



## ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Italia Sardegna

Emilio Fernández/Ruben Garcia (CHL/ARG) took fifth position in WRC3 in the Toksport WRT ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



## ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Italia Sardegna

After a roll, Norwegians Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Fløene had to retire the Toksport WRT ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo

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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.



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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.

## 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.