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All ŠKODA podium at European and Czech Championship round Barum Czech Rally Zlín

- › With his tenth victory in Zlín, Jan Kopecký, sharing a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo with co-driver Jan Hloušek, preliminary secures eighth title in the Czech Rally Championship
- › Second placed Andreas Mikkelsen, for the first time sharing a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo with Jonas Andersson, conquers overall lead in the FIA European Rally Championship
- › Filip Mareš/Radovan Bucha (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) finish third

Zlín/Mladá Boleslav (CZE), 30 August 2021 – Three ŠKODA crew finished on the podium of Barum Czech Rally Zlín, a two-day event counting towards the FIA European Rally Championship (ECR) and the Czech Rally Championship (MČR). ŠKODA Motorsport test driver Jan Kopecký (CZE) and Jan Hloušek (CZE) won for Agrotec ŠKODA Rally Team. Kopecký celebrated his tenth win in Zlín, which means he also is Czech Rally Champion for the eighth time. Thanks to finishing second, ŠKODA stablemate Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT, who was competing for the first time with co-driver Jonas Andersson (SWE), moved into the lead in the European series. Filip Mareš/Radovan Bucha (CZE/CZE) of Laureta Auto ŠKODA Team completed the podium. A total of eight ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 crews made it into the top 10.

The Barum Czech Rally Zlín is the season highlight in the Czech Rally Championship as it is counting as well for the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC). Therefore, the entry list also featured the top European Rally crews. But nine times winner Jan Kopecký had more focus on the Czech Championship competitors than on the European teams led by ŠKODA stablemate Andreas Mikkelsen, who wanted to snatch the lead in the ERC.

Agrotec ŠKODA Rally Team's Jan Kopecký and co-driver Jan Hloušek (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) were leading after the first leg which was a real challenge for the crews. Changing unpredictable road conditions, dry passages often covered with gravel, damp and wet sections in the forests with mud in the corners made the tire choice crucial. First top crew to be caught out was the young talented ŠKODA driver Dominik Stříteský, who had finished second at recent Rally Bohemia. On the second special stage, he lost after a jump the control over his ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, went off the road and had to retire.

The ultimate test came on the second run of the infamous, almost 19 kilometres long Pindula stage which was run in the dark of Saturday evening. Andreas Mikkelsen, for the first time competing with Jonas Andersson on the co-driver seat, opted to play it safe and settled for third. At the end of the Saturday leg, ŠKODA stablemate Jan Kopecký was 2.1 seconds shy of leader Eric Cais (Ford). "I didn't want to take unnecessary risks. Tomorrow is still another long day," Kopecký said.

On Sunday, six more stages were waiting for the crews. And Jan Kopecký delivered a faultless drive at the wheel of his ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo and secured a second place behind leader Eric Cais. But in the last stage, Cais rolled his Ford, had to retire – and Kopecký inherited his 10th victory in Zlín, thus preliminary securing the title in Czech Rally Championship. "I feel sorry for Eric – he really deserved the win. It was a really difficult rally with changing conditions, some places were wet, others dry. Big thanks to my co-driver Honza and the whole team," he said.

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For Andreas Mikkelsen, driving a Toksport WRT from ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, the mission was similar. The Norwegian secured at the end not only a second place, he also moved into the European Rally Championship lead. "It's been a good weekend. It was not easy to come back to Barum Czech Rally Zlín after almost ten years. We were doing our best."

ŠKODA privateers Norbert Herczik/Ramón Ferencz from Hungary and their stablemates Filip Mareš/Radovan Bucha (CZE/CZE) had a stunning fight for the last podium position. In the last stage, Mareš passed Herczik and finally finished third. A total of eight ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 crews made it into the top 10.

Result Barum Czech Rally Zlín (Czech and FIA European Rally Championship 2021)

1. Kopecký/Hloušek (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 2:00:07.2 hrs.
2. Mikkelsen/Andersson (NOR/SWE), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +40.1 sec.
3. Mareš/Bucha, (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +1:40.2 min.
4. Herczik/Ferencz, (HUN/HUN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +1:44.0 min.
5. Marczyk/Gospordaczyk, (POL/POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +2:58.5 min.
6. Llarena/Fernandez, (ESP/ESP), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +3:09.4 min.

Number of the rally: 22

Among the 38 Rally2 cars starting into Barum Czech Rally Zlín, 22 crews were competing with a ŠKODA FABIA – the Czech rally car was by far the most popular in its category.

2021 FIA European Rally Championship

Rally Poland	18 – 20 June
Rally Liepāja (Latvia)	1 – 3 July
Rally Roma di Capitale (Italy)	23 – 25 July
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	27 – 29 August
Azores Rallye (Portugal)	16 – 19 September
Rally Serras de Fafe e Felgueiras (Portugal)	1 – 3 October
Rally Hungary	22 – 24 October
Rally Islas Canarias (Spain)	18 – 20 November

SONAX Czech Rally Championship 2021

Valašská Rally ValMez	27 – 18 March
Rallye Šumava Klatovy	8 – 09 May
Agrotec Petronas Rally Hustopeče	18 – 19 June
Bohemia Rally	10 – 11 July
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	27 – 29 August
Invelt Rally Pačejov	1 – 03 October
Rallye Český Krumlov	12. – 14. November

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Further information:

Zbyněk Straškraba
Motorsport Communications
T +420 326 811785
zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz

Pavel Jína
ŠKODA AUTO Czech Republic Press Officer
T +420 326 811 776
pavel.jina@skoda-auto.cz

/skodacz /skoda.cz /skodacr /SKODACeskarepublika

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ŠKODA Motorsport at Barum Czech Rally Zlín
Jan Kopecký (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo), with the support of co-driver Jan Hloušek, won Barum Czech Rally Zlín for the tenth time

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Barum Czech Rally Zlín
Second placed Andreas Mikkelsen, for the first time competing with Jonas Andersson in the co-driver's seat, conquered the overall lead in the FIA European Rally Championship

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Barum Czech Rally Zlín
Filip Mareš/Radovan Bucha (CZE/CZE) finished third with Laureta Auto ŠKODA Team's ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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ŠKODA Motorsport at Barum Czech Rally Zlín

ŠKODA privateers Norbert Herczik/Ramón Ferencz from Hungary delivered a strong performance and conquered the fourth position at Barum Czech Rally Zlín

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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 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.

ŠKODA AUTO

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the NEXT LEVEL – ŠKODA STRATEGY 2030.
- › aims to be one of the five best-selling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
- › is emerging as the leading European brand in India, Russia and North Africa.
- › currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ, ENYAQ iV and KUSHAQ.
- › delivered over one million vehicles to customers around the world in 2020.
- › has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- › independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- › employs more than 43,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.