

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Acropolis Rally Greece: ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews lead the categories WRC2 and WRC3

- › 20 years old Marco Bulacia from Bolivia and Argentinean co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian conquer top spot in WRC2
- › Toksport WRT teammate Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) and new co-driver Elliot Edmondson from Great Britain follow in WRC2 second only 5.4 seconds down
- › 2019 FIA European Rally Champions Chris Ingram/Ross Whittock (GBR/GBR) beat Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak (POL/POL) in the fight for the WRC3 lead
- › The ninth round of the FIA World Rally Championship continues with the longest leg on Saturday covering nearly 133 kilometres of rocky stages

Athens (GR), 10 September 2021 – ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews dominated categories WRC2 and WRC3 during the first leg of Acropolis Rally Greece (9-12 September 2021), ninth round of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC). After six stages, South-Americans Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) lead Andreas Mikkelsen/Elliott Edmondson (NOR/GBR), both of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT. 2019 FIA European Rally Champions Chris Ingram/Ross Whittock (GBR/GBR) fended off Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak (POL/POL) and Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen (FIN/FIN) in the fight for WRC3 lead.

While rain at the beginning of the week made Thursday's Shakedown surprisingly muddy, dust prevailed during the first leg on Friday. In WRC2, Toksport WRT's Andreas Mikkelsen, supported by new co-driver Elliott Edmondson, and Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian fought with Oliver Solberg for the lead. When the Swedish youngster was stopped by a suspension issue, the two ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews were on their own.

Mikkelsen opted for a cautious approach. "It's fine. I was very cautious, just making sure the tyres stay away from punctures. You never know because there are so many rocks everywhere. I think it's the right tactic for this rally," the WRC2 points leader said at the day's half-way point. Teammate Marco Bulacia took the chance without any hesitation and climbed to top spot on the WRC2 leader board. "It's good. I thought we were going to be slower because I was struggling a lot to find the right rhythm," the 20-years-old from Bolivia commented. Bulacia posted fastest WRC2 times in four of the day's five stages, in the end leading Mikkelsen by 5.4 seconds. Georg Linnamäe from Estland and British co-driver James Morgan, sharing an ALM Motorsport run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, finished leg1 fourth in WRC2 in.

In WRC3, a three-way fight developed between the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews Chris Ingram/Ross Whittock from England, Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak from Poland and Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen from Finland. Coming into the service park on Friday evening, 2019 European Rally Champion Ingram held a 10.4 seconds lead over his Polish rivals with the two Finns a further 3.1 seconds down. After leg 1, seven ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews are listed inside the top 10 in WRC3.



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The "Rally of Gods" continues on Saturday with six stages covering 132.56 kilometres. This is the longest and toughest leg leading the competitors to some famous stages south of Athens including „Bauxites“ and „Eleftherohori“.

## Standings Acropolis Rally Greece after Leg 1 (WRC2)

1. **Bulacia/Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 1:04:38.0 hrs.**
2. **Mikkelsen/Edmondson (NOR/GBR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +5.4 sec.**
3. Gryazin/Aleksandrov (RAF/RAF), Ford Fiesta Rally2, +1:55.1 min.
4. **Linnamäe/Morgan (EST/GB), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +2:04.0 min.**
5. Johnston/Kihurani (USA/USA), Citroën C3 Rally2, +2:56.3 min.
6. Prokop/Michal (CZE/CZE), Ford Fiesta Rally2 Mk2, +3:25.1 min.

## Standings Acropolis Rally Greece after Leg 1 (WRC3)

1. **Ingram/Whittock (GBR/GBR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 1:04:49.8 hrs.**
2. **Kajetanowicz/Szczepaniak (POL/POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +10.4 sec.**
3. **Lindholm/Korhonen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +13.5 sec.**
4. Rossel/Coria (FRA/FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, +26.8 sec.
5. **Zaldívar/Del Barrio (PRY/ESP), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +1:40.0 sec.**
6. **Giorgos/Tsaousoglou (GRC/GRC), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +3:31.5 sec.**

## Number of the day: 4

Youngster Marco Bulacia from Bolivia and co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) today not only scored WRC2 stage wins against experienced competitors like Toksport WRT teammate Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) – they won four of Friday's five tests.

## 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
Rally Italia Sardegna	3 – 6 June
Safari Rally Kenya	24 – 27 June
Rally Estonia	15 – 18 July
Renties Ypres Rally Belgium	13 – 15 August
<b>EKO Acropolis Rally Greece</b>	<b>9 – 12 September</b>
Rally Finland	30 September – 3 October
RallyRACC Rally de España	14 – 17 October

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## ŠKODA Motorsport:



## Media images:



### ŠKODA Motorsport at Acropolis Rally Greece

Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT lead WRC2 after leg 1 of FIA World Rally Championship round nine

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA Motorsport at Acropolis Rally Greece

Supported by new co-driver Elliott Edmondson (GBR), WRC2 points leaders Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) hold second position in WRC2 in a Toksport WRT run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA Motorsport at Acropolis Rally Greece

2019 FIA European Rally Champions Chris Ingram/Ross Whittock (GBR/GBR) lead WRC3 in SXM Competition's ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA Motorsport at Acropolis Rally Greece

Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak (POL/POL) of ŠKODA Motorsport customer LOTOS Rally Team hold second position in WRC3 after leg 1

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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



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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.