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Victories for ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews in World and European Championship

- › Three private ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews on the WRC3 podium at Secto Rally Finland, tenth round of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)
- › New national champions Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen beat fellow Finns Mikko Heikkilä/Topi Luhtinen and Lauri Joona/Mikael Korhonen
- › Seven ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews make it into top 10 of the year's fastest gravel rally
- › Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Elliott Edmondson of ŠKODA Motorsport supported Team Toksport WRT win ERC round Rally Serras de Fafe e Felgueiras in Portugal
- › Norwegian Mikkelsen extends overall lead in FIA European Rally Championship (ERC)
- › New record: Over the weekend, 134 ŠKODA FABIA in action in rallies worldwide

Jyväskylä (FIN)/Fafe (POR), 3 October 2021 – Over the weekend, ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo drivers were successful in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) as well as in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC). At Secto Rally Finland, tenth WRC round of 2021, four private ŠKODA crews conquered positions one to four in WRC3 with local heroes Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen winning the category. Roughly three thousands kilometres south, Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) and co-driver Elliott Edmondson (GBR) of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT won Rally Serras de Fafe e Felgueiras in Portugal, sixth ERC round of the season. In total, 134 rally cars based on the ŠKODA FABIA were in action worldwide over this weekend alone – a new record for ŠKODA Motorsport.

At WRC round Secto Rally Finland, Emil Lindholm and co-driver Reeta Hämäläinen dominated WRC3, the category for private crews. The newly crowned national rally champions aboard a TGS Worldwide run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo were a class of their own on the ultra fast gravel tracks in the vicinity of Jyväskylä. Racing through the woods with average speeds sometimes exceeding 120 kph, Lindholm scored eleven WRC3 fastest times on the 19 stages.

During the Friday leg, Lindholm successfully fended off Estonian Egon Kaur as well as ŠKODA stable mates Mikko Heikkilä and Teemu Asunmaa. As the only crew running without any problems, Lindholm/Hämäläinen extended their WRC3 lead to over one minute during Saturday. Meanwhile, Mikko Heikkilä battled with Eerik Pietarinen for runner-up position. When Pietarinen went off the road, Lauri Joona/Mikael Korhonen took over position three and secured a full ŠKODA podium. Pepe Lopez and co-driver Borja Odriozola (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) from Spain came home as best non-Finns in WRC3. Seven ŠKODA crews made it into the top 10 of the category.

As Secto Rally Finland was not part of the program for WRC2 points leader Andreas Mikkelsen, the Norwegian and British co-driver Elliott Edmondson of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT had time to compete in Portugal over the same weekend. By winning Rally Serras de Fafe e Felgueiras, Mikkelsen made a big step in the direction of becoming FIA European Rally Champion of 2021. With his second ERC victory of the season at the wheel of the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, he extended his lead in the overall standings.

Right from the start, Mikkelsen enjoyed a thrilling battle with reigning FIA European Rally Champion Alexey Lukyanuk from Russia and Dani Sordo from Spain. With Sordo out after an early accident,

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Mikkelsen and Lukyanuk traded times until the midday break on Sunday. When the car of the "Russian Rocket" suffered a mechanical issue, Mikkelsen increased his lead from a couple of seconds to more than two minutes over the remaining stages. Locals Armino Araújo and Luís Ramalho brought The Racing Factory's ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to the finish third overall, joining Mikkelsen and Edmondson on the podium. Four more ŠKODA crews made it into the top 10.

Next WRC round is RallyRACC Rally de España (14-17 October 2021). The Catalonia event will see the WRC debut of young Czech Dominik Střítecký. He will share a Toksport WRT run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo with co-driver Jiří Hovorka.

Result Secto Rally Finland (WRC3)

1. Lindholm/Hämäläinen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 2:30:06,5 hrs.
2. Heikkilä/Luhtinen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +1:01.3 min.
3. Joonas/Korhonen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +4:56.5 min.
4. Lopez/Odrizola (ESP/ESP), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +5:40.6 min.
5. Tahko/Soininen (FIN/FIN), Hyundai i20, +7:40.9 min.
6. Kaur/Simm (EST/EST), Volkswagen Polo GTI, +11:37.1 min.

Number of the day: 114.8

Secto Rally Finland easily qualifies as fastest gravel rally in the WRC calendar. Although the twisty Harju street stage with two runs had an in this respect "negative" effect, WRC3 winners Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) averaged 114.8 kph over the 19 stages.

2021 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)

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
EKO Acropolis Rally Greece	9 – 12 September
Secto Rally Finland	1 – 3 October
RallyRACC Rally de España	14 – 17 October
FORUM8 ACI Rally Monza	19 – 21 November

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Result Rally Serras de Fafe a Felgueiras (overall)

1. **Mikkelsen/Edmondson (NOR/GBR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 2:19:10.1 hrs.**
2. Lukyanuk/Arnautov (RAF/RAF), Citroën C3 Rally2, +2:01.8 min.
3. **Araújo/Armalho (POR/POR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +2:38.9 min.**
4. Magalhães/Magalhães (POR/POR), Hyundai i20, +3:07.4 min.
5. **Solans/Martí (ESP/ESP), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +3:41.4 min.**
6. **Herczig/Ferencz (HUN/HUN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +4:07.0 min.**

Number of the day: 2

Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Elliott Edmondson make it two in a row: Coming from victory at Azores Rally, the Norwegian/British duo wins its second Portuguese ERC rally in two weeks.

2021 FIA European Rally Championship (ERC)

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

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ŠKODA Motorsport at Secto Rally Finland (WRC)

Local heroes Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) scored their maiden WRC3 victory at the tenth round of the 2021 FIA World Rally Championship

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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ŠKODA Motorsport at Secto Rally Finland (WRC)

Finns Mikko Heikkilä and co-driver Topi Luhtinen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) finished second in WRC3, the category for private crews

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Secto Rally Finland (WRC)

Finnish ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo driver Lauri Joonas and navigator Mikael Korhonen made it to the WRC3 podium as third in the category

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Secto Rally Finland (WRC)

The all-ŠKODA, all-Finnish WRC3 podium (from left to right): Topi Luhtinen, Mikko Heikkilä, Reeta Hämäläinen, Emil Lindholm, Lauri Joonas, Mikael Korhonen

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at

Rally Serras de Fafe e Felgueiras (ERC)

Driving a Toksport WRT run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Andreas Mikkelsen/Elliott Edmondson (NOR/GBR) celebrated their second ERC victory in as many weeks

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Source: FIA ERC

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



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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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- › 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.