

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 1 of 5



ŠKODA driver Andreas Mikkelsen seals FIA European Rally Championship title*

- › Driving a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, the Norwegian and British co-driver Elliot Edmondson finish Rally Hungary in sixth position – enough to prematurely win the championship
- › After claiming the WRC2 Drivers' Championship of the FIA World Rally Championship, Andreas Mikkelsen wins his second international title in less than ten days
- › ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT wins ERC Teams' title
- › Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon Gospodarczyk (POL/POL) finish Rally Hungary as best placed ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew in second position

Nyíregyháza (HUN), 25 October 2021 – Second international title for ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo driver Andreas Mikkelsen in less than ten days: After winning the WRC2 Drivers' crown of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) last weekend, the Norwegian also became 2021 FIA European Rally Champion*. With sixth position at Rally Hungary together with his British co-driver Elliott Edmondson, Andreas Mikkelsen collected enough points to win the title already one round before season's end. Honours of best placed ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew in Hungary went to Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon Gospodarczyk from Poland in second position overall.

Andreas Mikkelsen rounded up his successful 2021 season by winning the FIA European Rally Championship (ECR)*. At the series' penultimate round in Hungary, Mikkelsen and co-driver Elliott Edmondson overcame a handful of problems to finish sixth overall. That earned Mikkelsen enough points to win the title with the ERC finale on the Canary Islands still to come. He is the first Norwegian to become European Rally Champion. "My goal before the season was to try to win the championship, so I'm very happy," Mikkelsen commented. "The goal was really, really tough and high. But I really believed in my team Toksport WRT. The ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo has been working so well. So it was up to me and my co-pilot to do the job. I think we managed quite well. The season has been amazing."

Following second-place finishes at ORLEN Rally Poland and Barum Czech Rally Zlín, victories at Azores Rallye and Rally Serras de Fafe e Felgueiras put Mikkelsen into a dominant championship lead. Coming to Rally Hungary, only two other ŠKODA drivers mathematically had the chance to catch Mikkelsen: Mikołaj Marczyk (Orlen Team) from Poland and Rallye Team Spain's Efrén Llarena

When Rally Hungary began with some troubles for Mikkelsen, the championship race seemed to be wide open again. "We had less engine power in the morning. Luckily, we have good engineers who sent us helpful videos so we knew what to look for. The problem was a broken wire. I'm happy it was not more serious and we could continue," the Norwegian reported after the first leg. After more delay due to a puncture, he was down in seventh position on Saturday evening.

During the second leg on Sunday, Mikołaj Marczyk was fighting for the last step on the podium. After a strong performance on the tarmac stages in the vicinity of Nyíregyháza, he eventually managed to take third overall. Efrén Llarena reached the finish in fifth position. Mikkelsen survived a minor off on Sunday to keep the seventh spot in the final classification. When provisional winner

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 2 of 5



Nikolay Gryazin was handed a 15-minute time penalty hours after the finish, the following drivers climbed one position in the final classification. With Marczyk second and Llarena fourth, sixth position left Mikkelsen with a big enough championship lead to win the title with one ERC round to go. Also, Mikkelsen's team Toksport WRT, supported by ŠKODA Motorsport, takes the title in the Teams' classification of the FIA European Rally Championship*.

On his way to the 2021 ERC title, three co-drivers shared the cockpit of the Toksport WRT run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo with Mikkelsen: fellow Norwegian Ola Fløene, Jonas Andersson from Sweden and Briton Elliott Edmondson. "I knew it was going to be very, very tough with all the other strong drivers. So the title win was not for certain, that's for sure. But we had a good season, driving very clever and always getting points when we needed to," Mikkelsen concluded.

Result Rally Hungary (ERC)

1. Østberg/Torstein (NOR/NOR), Citroën C3 Rally2, +1:38:43.4 hrs.
2. **Marczyk/Gospodarczyk (POL/POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +21.8 sec.**
3. Hadik/Kertész (HUN/HUN) Ford Fiesta Rally 2, +26.1 sec.
4. **Llarena/Fernandez (ESP/ESP, ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +1:14.1 min.**
5. **Campedelli/Canton (ITA/ITA), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +1:21.8 min.**
6. **Mikkelsen/Edmondson (NOR/GBR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +1:30.4 min.**

Top 3 Drivers FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), after 7 of 8 rounds

1. **Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 191 points**
2. **Mikołaj Marczyk (POL/POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 135 points**
3. **Efrén Llarena (ESP), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 121 points**

Top 3 Teams FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), after 7 of 8 rounds

1. **Toksport WRT (ŠKODA), 411 points**
2. **Rallye Team Spain (ŠKODA), 338 points**
3. **Orlen Team (ŠKODA), 150 points**

Number of the rally: 5

Andreas Mikkelsen is the fifth driver of a ŠKODA becoming FIA European Rally Champion*. Juho Hänninen (ŠKODA FABIA S2000) was the first in 2012. Fellow Finn Esapekka Lappi (2014) and Jan Kopecký (2013) from the Czech Republic followed with the same ŠKODA model. Chris Ingram from England drove, like Mikkelsen now, a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to the 2019 title.

* subject to confirmation by the FIA

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



Page 3 of 5

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 Rally Hungary

Co-driven in the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo of team Toksport WRT by Elliott Edmondson, sixth position was enough for Andreas Mikkelsen to prematurely secure the title of European Rally Champion.

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Source: FIA ERC



ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Hungary

After winning the WRC2 Drivers' title of the FIA World Rally Championship, ŠKODA driver Andreas Mikkelsen also became FIA European Rally Champion.

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Source: FIA ERC

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



Page 4 of 5



ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Hungary

Team Orlen's Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon Gospodarczyk from Poland finished second overall and took the honours of best placed ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew.

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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 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.

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.

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 5 of 5



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120

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