

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 1 of 4



## Strong ŠKODA line-up at the Rallye Monte-Carlo: WRC2-Champion Mikkelsen has sights set on victory

- › WRC2 champion Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) aims to repeat last year's category win in the first round of the 2022 FIA World Rally Championship
- › ŠKODA Motorsport-backed Toksport WRT fields two more ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo cars for Marco Bulacia (BOL) and Russian Nikolay Gryazin
- › Former ŠKODA factory driver Freddy Loix from Belgium makes his comeback to the FIA World Rally Championship in a privately entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo

Mladá Boleslav, 18 January 2022 – Next weekend's Rallye Monte-Carlo (20 – 23 January 2022) will open the FIA World Rally Championship, with the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo once again making up a large part of the WRC2 field. The ŠKODA Motorsport-backed team Toksport WRT alone will be entering three ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo cars for Andreas Mikkelsen/Torstein Eriksen (NOR/NOR), Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) and Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov from Russia. Standing out among private ŠKODA drivers is the four-time Belgian rally champion Freddy Loix, who will be starting alongside co-driver Pieter Tsjoen.

Andreas Mikkelsen can look back on one of the most successful seasons of his career. Driving a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo from team Toksport WRT, he won the WRC2 category of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) in 2021 as well as the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) overall. This impressively builds on his previous successes in ŠKODA rally cars; Mikkelsen won the Intercontinental Rally Championship (IRC) in 2011 and 2012 in a FABIA S2000.

On his return to ŠKODA at the 2017 Rallye Monte-Carlo, Mikkelsen not only won the WRC2 category; he also finished seventh overall – surrounded by more powerful WRC1 cars. In January 2021, the Norwegian was able to repeat this success. Driving a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo entered by Team Toksport WRT, Mikkelsen once again brought home a WRC2 category win, finishing seventh overall. Asked about his goals for the upcoming start of the 2022 season, he said, "I want to lay the foundation for defending the title with another WRC2 victory. Of course, I also want to finish as high up in the overall standings as possible again."

Mikkelsen's teammate at Toksport WRT is 21-year-old Marco Bulacia from Bolivia, who will be listening to his Argentine co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian calling the notes in the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. Bulacia finished the 2021 season fourth overall in the WRC2 drivers' standings. "Last year's Monte was our first ever rally where we alternated between asphalt, ice and snow. We learned a lot, I want to build on this experience, and I still treat this legendary rally with the respect it deserves," Bulacia emphasises.

The Russian duo Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov switched to a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo for the RallyRACC Rally de España in autumn 2021, achieving second place in their class straight off the bat. In December, they won the Rally National Hivernal du Dévoluy in France in the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. Armed with this experience, Gryazin/Aleksandrov will now tackle their third start at the Rallye Monte-Carlo. Like their Belgian veterans and brand colleagues

Follow us on the [ŠKODA Motorsport](#) website and social media:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter



Instagram

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

Page 2 of 4

Freddy Loix/Pieter Tsjoen (BEL/BEL), they are among the favourites in the field of Rally2 competitors. Four-time Belgian Rally Champion and former ŠKODA works driver Loix comes to the season opener with two podium finishes at the Rallye Monte-Carlo under his belt, having finished second overall in both 2009 and 2011.

The Rallye Monte-Carlo gets underway on Thursday (20 January) at 18:45 in front of the Principality's casino, followed by two special stages over roughly 38 kilometres. On Friday (21 January), the drivers will face six special stages, followed by five special stages on Saturday (22 January). On both days the teams have to manage without a service break at lunchtime. Sunday (23 January) has another four special stages in store. All in all, there are 17 special stages, covering a total distance of around 296 kilometres.

## **New for the 2022 season**

In the past, Rally2 cars like the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo were eligible to compete in both the WRC2 and WRC3 in the FIA World Rally Championship. Beginning with the 2022 season, the governing body FIA has introduced a new system. Starting with the Rallye Monte-Carlo, WRC2 is dedicated to Rally2 cars only, while WRC3 will be the category for the technologically less sophisticated Rally3 cars. This will make the competition in both categories fiercer than ever. Various classifications have been announced in the WRC2 category, the most important being titles for drivers, teams and juniors born after 1 January 1992.

The controlled petrol supplied to all cars taking part in WRC events is now made exclusively from sustainable resources, for example, bio waste.

## **Did you know, that...**

... the Rallye Monte-Carlo was first held in 1911, making it the longest-standing event on the current WRC calendar?

...the rally was originally conceived to boost tourism in Monaco even in the otherwise less attractive winter months?

...the participants started all over Europe and even North Africa to a common meeting point in Monte-Carlo or France before the actual competition started – up to and including 1998 (in that year, the works teams were excluded)?

...choosing the right tyres at the Monte is extremely difficult and can make all the difference? The teams compete in up to four special stages without a service, relying on the four tyres they have mounted plus a maximum of two spare wheels. So, the choice of tyres is almost always a compromise; while one stage may be covered in deep snow, the next may be icy, wet or even completely dry.

...this is the reason for some strange tyre combinations? Occasionally, snow tyres with studs are mounted together with almost treadless slicks in a wide variety of configurations so that they are as well-equipped as possible for all conceivable road conditions.

Follow us on the [ŠKODA Motorsport](https://www.sksport.com) website and social media:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter



Instagram

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

Page 3 of 4

## The FIA World Rally Championship 2022

<b>Rallye Monte-Carlo</b>	<b>20 - 23 January</b>
Rally Sweden	24 - 27 February
Rally Croatia	21 - 24 April
Rally Portugal	19 - 22 May
Rally Italy Sardinia	2 - 5 June
Safari Rally Kenya	23 - 26 June
Rally Estonia	14 - 17 July
Rally Finland	4 - 7 August
<i>Event still to be decided</i>	<i>18 - 21 August</i>
Acropolis Rally Greece	8 - 11 September
Rally New Zealand	29 September - 2 October
RallyRACC Rally de España	20 - 23 October
Rally Japan	10 - 13 November

### Further information:

Zbyněk Straškraba, Communications Motorsport

P +420 605 293 168

[zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz](mailto:zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz)

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

### ŠKODA Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter

### Media images:



#### ŠKODA Motorsport at the Rallye Monte-Carlo

Reigning WRC2 champion Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) aims to repeat last year's victory alongside new co-driver Torstein Eriksen (NOR) in the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



#### ŠKODA Motorsport at the Rallye Monte-Carlo

Marco Bulacia (BOL) and co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian (ARG) will be starting the new WRC2 season in the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo from the ŠKODA Motorsport-backed team Toksport WRT.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO

Follow us on the [ŠKODA Motorsport](http://skoda-motorsport.com) website and social media:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter



Instagram

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

Page 4 of 4



## ŠKODA Motorsport at the Rallye Monte-Carlo

Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov from Russia are among the favourites in the WRC2 category with their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO

## ŠKODA Motorsport

- › ŠKODA has been active in motorsport since 1901, garnering success in rallies as well as circuit racing.
- › Highlights include winning the 1981 European Touring Car Championship (ETCC) with the ŠKODA 130 RS.
- › In recent years, the ŠKODA FABIA celebrated numerous successes for the Czech manufacturer on rally stages worldwide. From 2009 to 2014, the ŠKODA FABIA S2000 (2.0 naturally aspirated engine, four-wheel drive) secured 50 international titles and national rally championships. The ŠKODA FABIA S2000 also helped to win the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) three times each.
- › The ŠKODA FABIA R5 (1.6 turbo engine, four-wheel drive) continued the S2000's success story in 2015. In the following years, ŠKODA Motorsport factory drivers took multiple titles in the FIA World Rally Championship's support category WRC2/WRC2 Pro with the models ŠKODA FABIA R5 (Rally2) and ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. Titles went to Jan Kopecký (CZE), Esapekka Lappi (FIN), Pontus Tidemand (SWE), Kalle Rovanperä (FIN) and Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR). Supported by ŠKODA Motorsport, Toksport WRT became Team Champion of the WRC2 category in 2020.
- › ŠKODA Motorsport customer teams have also won titles in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), 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).
- › In 2021, Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR, Toksport WRT) took the WRC2 Drivers' Championship and the FIA European Rally Championship overall at the wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.
- › By the end of the 2021 season, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 (Rally2) and ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo had secured over 1,500 victories and more than 3,700 podium positions in 65 countries.

## 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 870,000 vehicles to customers around the world in 2021.
- › 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.

Follow us on the [ŠKODA Motorsport](#) website and social media:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter



Instagram