



# ŠKODA Motorsport, Page 1 of 2

## International Automobile Federation FIA Honours ŠKODA's APRC Champions

- › Pontus Tidemand and Emil Axelsson honoured at the FIA gala in Paris
- › ŠKODA claims fourth consecutive title triple in the renowned continental championship

**Paris, 5 December 2015 – During the International Automobile Federation's motorsport gala, Pontus Tidemand (S) and Emil Axelsson (S) were crowned official champions of the Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC). ŠKODA received the awards for the driver and manufacturer championship in the prestigious continental championship for the fourth consecutive year at the official FIA prize-giving ceremony for the 2015 motorsport season in Paris. Works driver Tidemand had led the championship with five victories and a second-place finish while wrapping up the season with an acclaimed victory with the new ŠKODA Fabia R5 in the key market of China.**

"Taking the fourth title in a row in the FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship, four wins in the World Rally Championship WRC 2 and five national titles are terrific results for the first year with the ŠKODA Fabia R5. This is also a great honour for each and every employee in the ŠKODA Motorsport racing family who again did a great job during this year's rally season," said ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek.

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### ŠKODA at the FIA gala in Paris

Pontus Tidemand and Emil Axelsson (S/S) are crowned champions of the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC).

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Quelle: ŠKODA AUTO



# ŠKODA Motorsport, Page 2 of 2

## ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been involved in the world of motorsport since 1901. The brand has taken home many trophies from the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and several famous races, such as the oldest rally in the world – the Monte Carlo, which has taken place annually since 1911.

The Fabia Super 2000 rally car is the most successful model in ŠKODA's 114-year history in motorsport. In 2014, the brand won a hat trick of titles in the manufacturer and driver competitions in the APRC. The new reigning champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) achieved the momentous feat of becoming the first duo in history to win the drivers' title in the ERC and finally the APRC in consecutive years.

In the ERC, ŠKODA Motorsport took the title for the third time in a row in 2014, thanks to Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) with the ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000. Before Lappi, the Finn Juho Hänninen (2012) and Jan Kopecký (2013) had won the European title with the ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000.

Between 2009 and 2014, ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000 drivers won nearly 50 national and international titles.

The International Automobile Federation FIA approved ŠKODA's new rally car - the Fabia R5 on 1 April 2015. The new rally car was presented to the International Press in the Czech Republic on 15 April. The ŠKODA Fabia R5 celebrated its competitive début at the Šumava Rally, Czech Republic in 2015. In their very first season with the new ŠKODA Fabia R5, Pontus Tidemand/Emil Axelsson (S/S) claimed the APRC title. Five national championships have also been won in the new high-tech four-wheel drive in 2015.

## ŠKODA AUTO

- > is one of the longest-established vehicle production companies in the world. In 1895, the Czech headquarters in Mladá Boleslav began producing bicycles, followed by the production of motorbikes and cars.
- > currently offers the following models in the range: Citigo, Fabia, Rapid, Octavia, Yeti and Superb.
- > in 2014 delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide for the first time in a single year.
- > has belonged to Volkswagen since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful automotive groups in the world. ŠKODA, in association with the Group, independently manufactures and develops vehicles, as well as components, engines and gear transmissions.
- > operates at three locations in the Czech Republic, produces in China, Russia, Slovakia and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- > employs over 25,900 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.