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ŠKODA Fabia R 5: Development of the new rally car on schedule

- › Asia-Pacific champion Kopecký and European champion Lappi test in Italy and the Czech Republic
- › Kopecký: "We are definitely on the right track"
- › Fabia R 5 charged with continuing the company's 114-year motorsport history

Mladá Boleslav, 16 February 2014 – The development of ŠKODA's eagerly awaited new rally car is going to plan. Asia-Pacific champion Jan Kopecký (CZ) and European champion Esapekka Lappi (FIN) put the Fabia R 5 through its paces on a wide range of surfaces and weather conditions during a series of comprehensive tests last week. As the successor to the successful Fabia Super 2000, the R 5 is charged with writing the next chapter in the company's 114-year motorsport success story.

"We tested the new Fabia R 5 on asphalt and recently on gravel. The new car feels very good on all the surfaces. We are definitely on the right track," said a happy Kopecký. The experienced 33-year-old took turns with Esapekka Lappi in Italy at the end of January. Finland's European champion was also impressed with his outings in ŠKODA's new rally car, which was still sporting its camouflaged 'zebra' look: "I think the Fabia R 5 will continue the success story of ŠKODA in motorsport."

The tests with the Fabia R 5 will continue throughout Europe in the next weeks. Veteran rally driver Freddy Loix (B) and Austria's multiple champion Raimund Baumschlager are also among the team of drivers giving important input throughout the development of the new car. Customer rally teams are not the only ones showing huge interest in the Fabia R 5, which is being developed based on the new production model of the Fabia. The world premiere of the concept car also caused quite a stir among the public at the Essen Motor Show at the end of November.

The Fabia R 5 features the very latest technology. The new racing car will be equipped with a 1.6-litre turbo engine, in accordance with FIA regulations. This is a big change compared to the two-litre, petrol induction engine in the Fabia Super 2000. The new car is also fitted with a five-speed sequential gearbox and McPherson struts. The weight will be at least 1,230 kilograms, as stipulated in the regulations. The new ŠKODA Fabia R 5 will make its race debut once it has successfully been homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA. ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek: "We want to have the new Fabia R 5 approved by mid-2015 and are right on schedule to achieve this."





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Asia-Pacific champion Jan Kopecký (CZ) and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZ) tested the new Fabia R 5 in Italy recently.

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European champions Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) are also impressed by the progress made in the development of ŠKODA's new rally car.

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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, ŠKODA won a hat-trick of titles in the Manufacturers' and Drivers' 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 then the APRC in consecutive years.





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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 a total of 28 national titles worldwide.

As of 2015, the ŠKODA Fabia R 5 will be taking over the reins from the Super 2000 and continuing ŠKODA's success story in motorsport. A global audience was given a first glimpse of ŠKODA's future rally car with the R 5 concept car at the 2014 Essen Motor Show.

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 has seven passenger car models: Citigo, Fabia, Roomster/Praktik, Rapid, Octavia, Yeti and Superb.
- > in 2014 delivered more than one million vehicles to customers around the world 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. It also manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India, mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- > employs over 25,800 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

