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## Home race number two for the new ŠKODA Fabia R5 at the Rally Český Krumlov

- › **Fabia R5 lines up at the second round of the Czech Rally Championship**
- › **Hrabánek: "Victory at opening round shows we are on the right track"**
- › **New high-tech powerhouse to make its debut in the FIA WRC this weekend**

**Mladá Boleslav, 20 May 2015 – Following its superb debut win at the opening round of this year's Czech Rally Championship (MČR), the new ŠKODA Fabia R5 now lines up at its next home race. Reigning Asia-Pacific champion Jan Kopecký (CZ) and his co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZ) will once again take their place in the cockpit of the new racing car at the Rally Český Krumlov. The 43<sup>rd</sup> Rally Český Krumlov will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> May and forms the second round of the MČR.**

The new ŠKODA Fabia R5 enjoyed a stunning start with a commanding victory on its debut at the Rally Šumava Klatovy at the end of April. Thousands of fans cheered on the newly-developed racing car on its impressive first rally outing. The next challenge now awaits the ŠKODA team. ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek: "The debut of the new Fabia R5 could hardly have gone better. We are on the right track."

Asia-Pacific champion Kopecký cannot wait for the Rally Český Krumlov after the dream debut with the new Fabia R5: "The first race was superb. The Fabia R5 was fast and totally reliable. We are confident that we can be among the front-runners at the Rally Český Krumlov too. We will use the rally to continue to perfect the set-up of the Fabia R5."

The Asia-Pacific champion has fond memories of the Rally Český Krumlov: Kopecký won here with co-driver Pavel Dresler in 2012. The iconic event starts on Friday in České Budějovice and ends 14 special stages and 161.92 kilometres of asphalt later on Saturday in the historic city of Český Krumlov.

One particular challenge for the ŠKODA works team is that the rally in South Bohemia coincides with the debut of the Fabia R5 in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC2) category. European champion Esapekka Lappi (FIN) and the talented Pontus Tidemand (S), who signed for ŠKODA recently, will be at the wheel of the new ŠKODA Fabia R5 in Portugal.



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## Czech Rally Championship (MČR)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Rally Šumava Klatovy	24.04.-25.04.2015
<b>Rally Český Krumlov</b>	<b>22.05.-23.05.2015</b>
Rally Hustopeče	19.06.-20.06.2015
Rally Bohemia	10.07.-12.07.2015
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	28.08.-30.08.2015
Rally Příbram	02.10.-04.10.2015

### Did you know ...

... the Rally Český Krumlov is being staged for the 43<sup>rd</sup> time this weekend? At the inaugural event in 1971, a certain Mr Janouch (CZ) claimed the first of many victories for ŠKODA in the legendary 1100 MB.

... the Rally Český Krumlov is the only Czech rally in the FIA European Rally Trophy? This series comprises 14 races throughout Europe.

... sections of the route at the Rally Český Krumlov are run on roads, which are used for skiing in the winter? The "Lipno" stage, which the competitors tackle twice on Saturday, is both the highest and the final stage of the rally.

... the side programme for the Rally Český Krumlov features many different events? Fans can also look forward to rally competitions with vintage cars and cars with alternative power units, a rally legend show, and races with radio-controlled cars.

... the rally service park is located in the České Budějovice exhibition centre? The largest city in South Bohemia, with a population of 93,000, is known around the world as the home of Budweiser beer.



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### Second home race for the ŠKODA Fabia R5

Jan Kopecký (CZ) and Pavel Dresler (CZ) guided the new Fabia R5 to a dominant victory on its rally debut.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### Second home race for the ŠKODA Fabia R5

ŠKODA is set to continue perfecting the set-up of its new racing powerhouse.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

## 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



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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.

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 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.

## 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 25,900 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.