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One-two for ŠKODA: Jan Kopecký extends lead in the Czech Rally Championship

- › Defending champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler win the Rally Český Krumlov to take their second victory in race two of this year's national championship
- › Successful second guest start: Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson complete ŠKODA one-two
- › ŠKODA Fabia R5 wins all twelve timed special stages

Český Krumlov, 28 May 2016 – Mission accomplished: At the 44th edition of the Rally Český Krumlov, ŠKODA Motorsport celebrated their second one-two result in the second race of the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) season. The 2015 winners, Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ), were victorious again this year and extended their leading position in the national championship. ŠKODA's dominance in South Bohemia was underlined by the second ŠKODA works team of Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (S/S), who finished in second place, just like at the season opener.

"Kudos to Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler, and to Pontus Tidemand and Jonas Andersson, who once again delivered a highly focussed performance at the Rally Český Krumlov. Every member of the ŠKODA Motorsport team contributed to this one-two result," said ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek. "The many fans in our brand home of the Czech Republic made the rally very special once again. Our ŠKODA Fabia R5 worked perfectly again. But we won't rest on our laurels: After all, it is less than two weeks until the Rally Italy on Sardinia in the WRC 2."

The performance at the Rally Český Krumlov was flawless. A ŠKODA works duo won on all six of Friday's special stages. Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler claimed five stages, while Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson got one stage best time. Arch-rival Václav Pech (CZ) was still in third place at this point, but he did not contest the second part of the rally.

On Saturday, a hailstorm forced the second and fifth special stages of the day to be cancelled amid concerns for safety. The remaining kilometres had a similar outcome to the previous day's stages: Kopecký/Dresler and Tidemand/Andersson each won three of the six special stages up for grabs. In the end, it was Kopecký/Dresler who celebrated a commanding win, just like at the season opener at the Rally Šumava Klatovy.

Jan Kopecký not only clinched his second win of the season at the Rally Český Krumlov, he also won the legendary rally for the third time after his victories in 2012 and 2015. "It was another step on the way to successfully defending the title. These fantastic fans played a large part in our success," said the 34-year-old. He has now won the last seven rounds of the MČR in which he has competed in his ŠKODA Fabia R5 spanning this season and last.



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Pontus Tidemand, who won the Rally Portugal in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) last weekend, was delighted with second place: "A fantastic result for us. Congrats to Jan on his win. He really feels at home on the asphalt tracks and is very hard to beat here."

The ŠKODA customer teams also performed well. Vojtěch Štajf/František Rajnoha (CZ/CZ) were in action for the Klokočka ŠKODA Czech National Team, who also compete in the internationally successful high-tech four-wheel drive Fabia R5. Štajf finished in sixth place with a deficit of 4.22.5 minutes to the top.

In addition to the sporting highlights, ŠKODA also entertained the fans in the ŠKODA Park. The brand organised a competition in which all participants were in with a chance of winning a ŠKODA Octavia RS 230 for a year.

The next rally in the Czech Rally Championship is the Rally Hustopeče, which will be held on 17 and 18 June. However, before this is the Rally Italy on Sardinia in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2), which takes place from 9 to 12 June. Where, in addition to the Krumlov winners Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ), Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) will also represent ŠKODA Motorsport.

The number for the Rally Český Krumlov: 12

The two ŠKODA works duos Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler and Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson in the Fabia R5 won all twelve timed special stages at the Rally Český Krumlov. There were even nine one-two results for the ŠKODA drivers. A further two special stages were on the schedule; however, the two passes of the "Malonty" stage had to be cancelled on Saturday. This was due to severe storms with heavy hail at times. The roads on the 22.66-kilometre special stage were extremely dirty and safety could not be guaranteed.

Rally Český Krumlov - Final Overall Classification

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZ/CZ)	ŠKODA Fabia R5	1:13.55,4 hod.
2. Tidemand/Andersson (S/S)	ŠKODA Fabia R5	+ 0.39,8 min.
3. Jakeš/Ehlová (CZ/CZ)	Citroën DS3 R5	+ 2:51,9
4. Odložilík/Tureček (CZ/CZ)	Ford Fiesta R5	+ 3:25,9
5. Štajf/Rajnová (CZ/CZ)	ŠKODA Fabia R5	+ 4:22,5



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Czech Rally Championship (MČR)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Rally Šumava Klatovy	29.04.-30.04.2016
Rally Český Krumlov	27.05.-28.05.2016
Rally Hustopeče	17.06.-18.06.2016
Rally Bohemia	02.07.-03.07.2016
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	26.08.-28.08.2016
Rally Příbram	30.09.-01.10.2016

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ŠKODA at the Rally Český Krumlov

Czech ŠKODA stars Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler were victorious for the third time at the Rally Český Krumlov.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at the Rally Český Krumlov

The ŠKODA works duo of Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson made their second guest appearance in the Czech championship. The Swedes completed a ŠKODA one-two.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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ŠKODA Motorsport Overview:

ŠKODA has been on the motorsport scene since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include numerous title wins in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), as well as the victory in the European Touring Car Championship in 1981. ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Monte Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

In 2015, ŠKODA celebrated four victories in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) with their new ŠKODA Fabia R5 rally car. The high-tech 4x4 was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. In the ŠKODA Fabia R5's very first season, factory duo Pontus Tidemand/Emil Axelsson (S/S) secured the fourth APRC title in a row for ŠKODA. In addition, the brand claimed five national titles with their new winning model.

ŠKODA's new Fabia R5 proudly continues the brand's long tradition in motorsport. Its predecessor, the Fabia Super 2000, was the most successful model in ŠKODA's 115-year motorsport history. With the 4x4 from Mladá Boleslav, factory duo Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) achieved the historic feat of becoming the first duo in history to win the drivers' title in the ERC and the APRC in consecutive years. Between 2009 and 2014, ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000 drivers won a total of 50 national and international titles around the world.

In 2016, the factory teams Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (S/S), Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler and Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (F/F) are competing with the ŠKODA Fabia R5 in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2).

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.
- > delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide in 2015.
- > 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 such as engines and gear transmissions.
- > operates at three locations in the Czech Republic. It also produces in China, Russia, Slovakia and India, mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- > employs more than 26,600 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.