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### Kopecný entering ŠKODA home rally in black FABIA R5

- › **43rd Rally Bohemia: ŠKODA Motorsport marks 35th anniversary of a cult Czechoslovakian film with special paintwork**
- › **Jan Kopecný/Pavel Dresler plan to remain unbeaten in fourth event of current Czech Rally Championship (MČR) season**
- › **German duo Fabian Kreim/Frank Christian also lining up for the race, supported by ŠKODA Motorsport**
- › **Michal Hrabánek: 'We're looking forward to the highlight of the Czech Rally Championship'**

**Mladá Boleslav, 30 June 2016 – A spectacular show at the 43rd Rally Bohemia: serial winner Jan Kopecný is to compete in ŠKODA's home race in a black FABIA R5. The vehicle's special paintwork is to mark the 35th anniversary of the cult Czechoslovakian film Ferat Vampire. The ŠKODA duo Jan Kopecný/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) intend to remain unbeaten in this year's Czech Rally Championship (MČR) when they tackle the fourth event of the season in their black high-tech vehicle on Saturday and Sunday. There will also be a guest appearance in the Czech championship from the German pair Fabian Kreim/Frank Christian, supported by ŠKODA Motorsport.**

„We're looking forward to the highlight of the Czech Rally Championship! Rally Bohemia has always been especially important to the ŠKODA brand because it is held right on its doorstep in Mladá Boleslav. Following a hat-trick of wins in the first three events of the season, we hope to extend our run of success and treat all the ŠKODA staff and the fans to a good show,“ says ŠKODA Motorsport Director Michal Hrabánek. And the black ŠKODA FABIA R5 driven by the commanding championship front-runner Jan Kopecný will be a real eye-catcher over the eight special stages covering a distance of 153.28 kilometres.

The livery of the turbocharged four-wheel drive vehicle is a nod to the legendary ŠKODA 110 SUPER SPORT (Ferat), which achieved cult status in what was then Czechoslovakia thanks to the film Ferat Vampire. The black supercar prototype was designed by the Czech artist Theodor Pištěk, who went on to win an Oscar for best costume design in the box office hit Amadeus. ŠKODA is marking the 35th anniversary of the release of the horror science fiction film Ferat Vampire with its black FABIA R5. The successful rally vehicle and the ŠKODA 110 SUPER SPORT (Ferat) are both on display at the ŠKODA Museum during Rally Bohemia.

„This is a great move. I think our black ŠKODA FABIA R5 will offer the fans a unique motif for photos. But for us, the focus is on being just as successful in Rally Bohemia as we have been so far and on extending our lead in the Czech championship. A fourth win



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of the season is what we're aiming at," says Jan Kopecký. If he wins the rally, the experienced 34-year-old would achieve the feat of making it his fourth consecutive win in ŠKODA's home rally, adding to his hat-trick of wins from 2013 to 2015. ŠKODA remains unbeaten at Rally Bohemia since 2009.

Also being supported by ŠKODA Motorsport, the German youngster Fabian Kreim will make his Czech Rally Championship debut at Rally Bohemia. He will be behind the wheel of a FABIA R5 provided by the team of the Czech rally legend Roman Kresta. On the same weekend as Rally Bohemia, the ŠKODA duos Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (S/S) and Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) will be competing in the other FABIA R5 vehicles belonging to ŠKODA Motorsport in Rally Poland, which is part of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2).

'I've had some pretty eventful weeks, starting with the International Rally of Queensland in Australia, then the Stewweder Berg Rally at home, and now Rally Bohemia. But ŠKODA's home rally will undoubtedly be the highlight, and I look forward to seeing lots of fans in the Czech Republic,' says Kreim.

The rally fans can look forward to quite a special programme in the ŠKODA park. As is customary at the Czech Rally Championship, there will be the opportunity to win a ŠKODA OCTAVIA RS 230 for a year. There will also be special activities at the ŠKODA Museum to mark the anniversary of the cult film Ferat Vampire.

### 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
<b>Rally Bohemia</b>	<b>02.07.-03.07.2016</b>
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	26.08.-28.08.2016
Rally Příbram	30.09.-01.10.2016

### Did you know ...

... that Dagmar Veškrnová-Havlová has a leading role in the film Ferat Vampire? She is the widow of the former Czech president Václav Havel, who died in 2011. The cult film was made at the Barrandov film studios in Prague and was directed by Juraj Herz.

... that various special goings-on are planned during Rally Bohemia to mark the film's 35th anniversary? Among other things the film itself will be shown at 19:00 on Friday, ahead of the start of the rally.



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... that a total of five ŠKODA FABIA R5 vehicles are in the list of starters for this year's Rally Bohemia? The ŠKODA customers Vojtěch Štajf (CZ), Jan Sýkora (CZ) and Karel Trojan (CZ) are lined up to compete in the Czech brand's very latest rally vehicle, in addition to Jan Kopecký and Fabian Kreim.

... that the longest stage of Rally Bohemia is 32.28 kilometres long? The Radostin stage will be completed twice on the Sunday.

... that ŠKODA has now racked up six consecutive wins in Rally Bohemia? Juho Hänninen of Finland won in the FABIA SUPER 2000 in 2009 and 2010, followed by Freddy Loix of Belgium in 2011. There was no official end result in 2012, but ŠKODA driver Jan Kopecký subsequently won the rally in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

... that Rally Bohemia was originally called Rally ŠKODA from its inaugural year in 1974 until 1985? The Czech automotive brand initiated the rally to test the quality and endurance of its models under extreme conditions. The first rally held 40 years ago was an impressive 1,800 kilometres long, with the special stages taking place all over what was then Czechoslovakia. 152 teams entered the rally, 72 of which came from abroad.

.... that Rally Bohemia was part of the European Rally Championship and the European Rally Cup for many years? The current ŠKODA driver Jan Kopecký scored three victories in total, in 2004, 2005 and 2013.

... that, in addition to Mladá Boleslav being where the ŠKODA headquarters are based, there is a tower nearby with a lean similar to that of the tower in Pisa? The iconic tower, which is part of the ruins of Castle Michalovice, is said to lean due to treasure hunters disrupting the foundations.

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## Media images:



### ŠKODA at the Rally Bohemia

The Czech ŠKODA duo Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler will tackle ŠKODA's home rally in a FABIA R5 with a striking black special livery.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at the Rally Bohemia

Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler scored their most recent win in Rally Hustopeče and are currently unbeaten in this year's Czech Rally Championship (MČR).

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at the Rally Bohemia

With two second places in the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) under their belts, the German duo Fabian Kreim and Frank Christian will make a guest appearance in the Czech championship.

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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 Tidem and/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 manufacturers in the world. The company was founded in 1895 – during the pioneering days of the automobile. Today, the company's headquarters remain in Mladá Boleslav.
- > currently offers the following models in the range: CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, OCTAVIA, YETI and SUPERB.
- > in 2015 delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide.
- > 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 26,600 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.