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### Speed and jumps in the snow: Tidemand extends his lead in the ŠKODA FABIA R5

- › Flights over Colin's Crest successfully negotiated: ŠKODA works driver Pontus Tidemand and co-driver Jonas Andersson take lead of 1:16.2 minutes into final day of the Rally Sweden
- › Dominant again on day three: Another five stage wins at round two of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)
- › Pontus Tidemand: "Combination of attack and control"

Torsby/Sweden, 11 February 2017 – ŠKODA works driver Pontus Tidemand (S) extended his lead on 'flight day' at the Rally Sweden. Sweden's Motorsport Athlete of the Year successfully mastered the infamous "Colin's Crest" jump twice on Saturday and was once again the dominant man with five stage wins on day three of his home round of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2). Tidemand and his co-driver Jonas Andersson (S) take a lead of 1:16.2 minutes into the Sunday's final three special stages. Ole Christian Veiby (N) is third overall in his private ŠKODA FABIA R5 and is well-placed to claim a spot on the podium going into the final day.

"We found a good rhythm, a combination of attack and control. Given our lead, it is now important not to take any unnecessary risks," said the 26-year-old Tidemand. The speed on Saturday's icy, snow-covered routes was breath-taking. At times, it was actually too quick: the high average speed at "Knon 1" stage led the world motorsport governing body, the FIA, to recommend that the stage be cancelled on the second loop.

As such, the penultimate day of the Rally Sweden consisted of just six stages, featuring around 93 kilometres against the clock. As on the previous day, Pontus Tidemand set the pace in his ŠKODA FABIA R5. On the opening stage of the day, the 26-year-old pulled a further 7.8 seconds clear of fellow ŠKODA driver Ole Christian Veiby, who once again impressed in Sweden. Tidemand then took his foot off the gas a little, but was still the fastest man in WRC 2 on all but one stage. The Swede was also the man to beat in his class in front of thousands of fans on Vargåsen, which included the infamous "Colin's Crest". Tidemand won the iconic stage on both loops: "A fantastic stage with massive crowds – that was the highlight so far."

Tidemand now goes into the final day of his home rally, at which Tidemand finished runner-up and only narrowly missed out on victory last year, with an advantage of over one minute over Finland's Teemu Suninen. "We must keep our cool now and finish the job," said Tidemand. Just three stages and 58.81 kilometres stand between him and the much-desired home win.



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### Rally Sweden standings (WRC 2):

1. Tidemand/Andersson (S/S)	ŠKODA FABIA R5	2:11:36.0 hrs
2. Suninen/Markkula (FIN/FIN)	Ford Fiesta R5	+ 1:16.2 min
3. Veiby/Skjærmoen (N/N)	ŠKODA FABIA R5	+ 1:21.5 min
4. Camilli/Veillas (F/F)	Ford Fiesta R5	+ 2:50.5 min
5. Greensmith/Parry (GB/GB)	Ford Fiesta R5	+ 4:37.2 min

### Number of the day: 128.1

ŠKODA driver Pontus Tidemand's average speed on the "Knon 1" special stage was an incredible 128.1 kilometres per hour – on snow and ice, mark you! The Swede completed the stage, which at 31.60 kilometres is the longest at his home rally, in a stage-winning time of just 14:48.1 minutes. The scheduled second run of this stage was cancelled for safety reasons, as the average speed was judged to be simply too high.

### The 2017 calendar for the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Rally Monte Carlo	19.01.–22.01.2017
<b>Rally Sweden</b>	<b>09.02.–12.02.2017</b>
Rally Mexico	09.03.–12.03.2017
Rally France	06.04.–09.04.2017
Rally Argentina	27.04.–30.04.2017
Rally Portugal	18.05.–21.05.2017
Rally Italy	08.06.–11.06.2017
Rally Poland	29.06.–02.07.2017
Rally Finland	27.07.–30.07.2017
Rally Germany	17.08.–20.08.2017
Rally Spain	05.10.–08.10.2017
Rally Great Britain	26.10.–29.10.2017
Rally Australia	16.11.–19.11.2017



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#### ŠKODA Motorsport at the Rally Sweden

Fly far, drive fast: ŠKODA works driver Pontus Tidemand and his co-driver Jonas Andersson thrilled fans on Colin's Crest.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



#### ŠKODA Motorsport at the Rally Sweden

The ŠKODA FABIA R5 is proving its reliability and class again on ice and snow.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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### ŠKODA Motorsport Overview:

ŠKODA has been successful 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 winning the title in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) for the first time in 2016, 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.

2016 was one of the most successful years in the 116-year history of ŠKODA Motorsport. In the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2), Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) won the title for the Czech car maker for the first time. In total, ten of the 2016 season's races in the World Rally Championship were won by a ŠKODA FABIA R5. ŠKODA drivers Gustavo Saba (PY) and Gaurav Gill (IND) also won the continental championships in South America and the Asia-Pacific region at the wheel of the successful ŠKODA FABIA R5. Nasser Al-Attiyah (Q) was unbeatable in the Middle East Rally Championship (MERC), while a further ten national titles also went the way of ŠKODA drivers.

The ŠKODA FABIA R5, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. ŠKODA's new FABIA R5 is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. Its predecessor, the FABIA SUPER 2000, won 50 national and international titles around the world. In 2017, works duos Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (S/S) and Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) will contest selected races in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2). Kopecký/Dresler will also compete in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR), where they will be looking to claim a third title in a row.

### 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, KODIAQ and SUPERB.
- > in 2016 delivered more than 1 million vehicles to customers worldwide.
- > has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers 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.