

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 1 of 3



Tour de Corse – Andreas Mikkelsen remains the man to beat

- › Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler fight back in impressive style with their ŠKODA FABIA R5 and storm into the points in WRC 2
- › Andreas Mikkelsen and Anders Jæger-Synnevaag remain very much in control at the front
- › Both ŠKODA Motorsport's ŠKODA FABIA R5 are running like clockwork
- › Norwegian youngsters Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen deliver excellent times
- › On the final day of the Tour de Corse on Sunday, the teams will face the championships longest tarmac stage

Bastia/Corsica, 8 April 2017 – Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Anders Jæger-Synnevaag remain unstoppable with their ŠKODA FABIA R5 in the hard-fought WRC 2 category at the Tour de Corse. After two of three legs, the Norwegian pair is in the lead ahead of Finns Teemu Suninen/Mikko Markkula and currently occupy an outstanding seventh place in the overall classification. Having suffered steering problems during the first leg on Saturday, Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler in the second works ŠKODA FABIA R5 fought their way up to seventh place with a series of excellent times. As a result, they still have their sights firmly set on valuable championship points in the WRC 2.

"I was a bit too careful on the first special stage on Saturday – and because it was about 49 kilometres long, I immediately lost a lot of time," admits Andreas Mikkelsen. One stage later, he set again a dominant fastest time. As on the previous day, the Norwegian ŠKODA factory driver drove again with controlled risk in the fight at the WRC 2 competition, building his lead to more than one minute by the end of the second leg in Bastia.

In an act of brute force on Friday, Jan Kopecký brought his ŠKODA FABIA R5 across the line without power steering. Despite sore arms and shoulders, the Czech champion delivered excellent times on Saturday that brought him up to seventh place. "Thanks to my mechanics, my ŠKODA FABIA R5 ran perfectly today."

Still turning in a strong performance on their first tarmac rally are Norwegian youngsters Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen, who currently hold an outstanding fourth place in the WRC 2 category with their privately run ŠKODA FABIA R5.

The final day of the Tour de Corse awaits on Sunday with the special stage from Antisanti to Poggio di Nazza. At around 54 kilometres, it's the longest tarmac stage the teams will face in the world championship.





ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 2 of 3

Current standings at the Tour de Corse (WRC 2)

1. Mikkelsen/Jæger-Synnevaag (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 2:50.31,9 h
2. Suninen/Markkula (FIN/FIN), Ford Fiesta R5, +1.07,9 min
3. Rossel/Fulcrand (FRA/FRA), Citroën DS3 R5, +3.34,9 min
4. Veiby/Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +5.59,3 min
5. Tempestini/Bernacchini (ITA/ITA), Citroën DS3 R5, +6.44,5 min
6. Loubet/Landais (FRA/FRA), Ford Fiesta R5, +8.27,5 min
7. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +9.59,4 min

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
Rally Sweden	09.02.–12.02.2017
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

Further information:

Zbyněk Straškraba, Communications Motorsport

P +420 605 293 168

zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

ŠKODA Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter





ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 3 of 3

Media images:



Storming into seventh place in the WRC 2 category at the Tour de Corse – Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) in the ŠKODA FABIA R5.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



A place in the sun – ŠKODA works team Andreas Mikkelsen/Anders Jæger-Synnevaag (NOR/NOR) further extended their lead in the WRC 2 category at the Tour de Corse.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO

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 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 (PRY) 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 (QAT) 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 (SWE/SWE) and Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) 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 30,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

