

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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Rally Šumava Klatovy: ŠKODA aims to continue winning streak

- › Last year's winners Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler in the ŠKODA FABIA R5 are the favourites in the second round of the Czech Championship
- › Impressive run of success – ŠKODA works teams unbeaten in 2017
- › ŠKODA leads in the World Rally Championship (WRC 2) and the Czech Championship

Mladá Boleslav, 21 April 2017 – ŠKODA Motorsport remains unbeaten in the first quarter of the 2017 motorsport season. Whenever the green-and-white ŠKODA FABIA R5s are on the grid, one of the three works drivers, Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), Pontus Tidemand (SWE) or Jan Kopecký (CZE) lifts the winner's trophy. While Mikkelsen and Tidemand are neck-and-neck in points at the top of the World Rally Championship (WRC 2 category), Kopecký's win at the season opener puts him in the lead in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR). The reigning champion aims to continue this winning streak this weekend (21/22 April 2017) at the Rally Šumava Klatovy.

Last year, with Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) ahead of Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE), ŠKODA Motorsport celebrated a convincing one-two at the Rally Šumava Klatovy in the west corner of the Czech Republic. This year, however, the two teams are following different paths. While Tidemand/Andersson are already on their way to the next round of the WRC in Argentina one week later, Kopecký/Dresler will be taking to the tarmac on home ground in their ŠKODA FABIA R5.

At the WRC Tour de Corse two weeks ago, Jan Kopecký demonstrated with top-class driving and two best times that he is one of the fastest drivers on tarmac. Only huge misfortune on the Mediterranean island prevented the Czech champion from securing a top slot.

The Rally Šumava Klatovy begins on Friday 21 April at 4.35 pm and runs on best times over 166 kilometres divided into 14 special stages. The winners are expected over the line in Klatovy on Saturday 22 April at around 7.00 pm. Alongside Jan Kopecký's works ŠKODA FABIA R5, more than half a dozen other ŠKODA FABIAs are expected on the grid in various different categories.





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The 2017 calendar for the Czech Rally Championship (MČR)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Valašská Rally	25.03.–26.03.2017
Rally Šumava Klatovy	21.04.–22.04.2017
Rally Český Krumlov	19.05.–20.05.2017
Rally Hustopeče	16.06.–17.06.2017
Rally Bohemia	01.07.–02.07.2017
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	25.08.–27.08.2017
Rally Příbram	06.10.–08.10.2017

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Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) are the hot favourites in their ŠKODA FABIA R5 at the Rally Šumava Klatovy.

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Leading the Czech Championship: Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5).

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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 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.

