

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Rally Český Krumlov: Kopecký and Dresler aiming for hatrick

- › ŠKODA FABIA R5 driver Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler targeting victory at the third round of the Czech Rally Championship
- › Successful pairing aiming to win Rally Český Krumlov for the third time in a row
- › ŠKODA factory teams in 2017 season still unbeaten in World Rally Championship (WRC 2) and Czech Rally Championship (MČR)

Mladá Boleslav, 17 May 2017 – Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler are dominating the Czech Rally Championship since they achieved a maiden win with the ŠKODA FABIA R5 on its debut at Rally Šumava Klatovy 2015. Since then, they won every event. Driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5 they collected twelve victories in a row. Upcoming weekend (19/20 May 2017) they are targeting a hatrick win in MČR 2017 and the third victory in a row at the Rally Český Krumlov. For Kopecký/Dresler, being the spearhead of ŠKODA Motorsport in the Czech Rally Championship, the goal for 2017 is crystal clear: winning the MČR title for a third time in a row.

"There is still a long, long way to go in the championship", Kopecký says. "We have to stay focused and have to avoid any mistakes. My competitors improved a lot, scoring fastest times already at Rally Šumava Klatovy. Ford driver Václav Pech and Jan Černý with his privately run ŠKODA FABIA R5 are ready to fight for the victory," stresses Kopecký.

Last year, Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) won the Rally Český Krumlov ahead of their teammates Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE), who are not competing in ŠKODA's backyard this year. Instead the Swedish pairing on the same weekend is entered into the World Championship Rally de Portugal.

"I am fully confident that Jan and Pavel will be hard to beat at Rally Český Krumlov", comments ŠKODA Motorsport Boss Michal Hrabánek and adds: "They are as fast and reliable as their ŠKODA FABIA R5."

Český Krumlov, the host city of the rally, is located in the region of Southern Bohemia and is named a UNESCO world heritage site. České Budějovice is famous for his world class beer. The whole region offers a fantastic landscape and challenging stages, 16 in total.

Rally Český Krumlov starts on Friday (19 May) at 3.27 pm and runs competitive over 171,38 kilometres. The winners are expected at the finish in České Budějovice on Saturday (20 May) at approximately 5:00 pm. Alongside Jan Kopecký's works ŠKODA FABIA R5, five private ŠKODA R5 plus additional ŠKODA teams in different categories are entered.



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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
<b>Rally Český Krumlov</b>	<b>19/05–20/05/2017</b>
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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#### ŠKODA at Rally Český Krumlov

Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) are aiming for third victory in a row with their ŠKODA FABIA R5 at the Rally Český Krumlov

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



#### ŠKODA at the Rally Český Krumlov

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.

