

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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Rally Italia Sardegna: Kopecký/Dresler secured their first WRC 2 win of the season for ŠKODA

- › Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) achieved a dominant first WRC 2 win on Sardinia after three attempts
- › Reigning Czech rally champion scored 13 best times on 19 stages and moved up to fifth place in the championship standings
- › Second placed Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen (ŠKODA FABIA R5) of Team Printsport secured double win for the ŠKODA brand

Alghero/Italy, 11 June 2017 – Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) achieved a dominant win in WRC 2 category at Rally Italia Sardegna. From the second stage onwards, they controlled the competition and faultlessly drove with 13 best times on the 19 stages to their first WRC 2 win on Sardinia at their third attempt. For Kopecký, the victory on the Mediterranean island marked the third WRC 2 win in his career, for the first time winning a WRC event on gravel. Young stablemates Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen, driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5 from private Team Printsport, drove three fastest times and came home second in WRC 2.

With four more stages in the north of Alghero, covering around 42 Kilometres, the final sunny Sunday of the rally was a tough challenge for the teams. "The roads were really beaten up, especially on the second passage of the last stage. Today it was all about cruising to the finish and to secure second place in WRC 2", emphasized Norwegian Youngster Ole Christian Veiby. He defended second position up to the finish which made him moving up to the sixth position in the World Rally Championship standings (WRC 2) behind Jan Kopecký.

The reigning Czech rally champion had a prestige fight for R2 class victory with Ford driver Eric Camilli (who was not registered for WRC 2 championship points). At the end of leg two, Kopecký was only 0.9 seconds ahead of Camilli. On the final day the ŠKODA driver decided to concentrate on the WRC 2 victory. "It would have been nice to stay ahead of Camilli, but he was pushing to the limit while I had to drive without taking unnecessary risks to secure WRC 2 victory and valuable championship points", Kopecký said. The second last stage was stopped due to an accident of Hayden Paddon, his car blocking the road. On the remaining short Power Stage, Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler achieved special stage win number 13 in the WRC 2 category and rewarded themselves with a well deserved victory.

ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek was happy with the performance of the Czech pairing. "Jan and Pavel were very fast, smart and clever. Congratulations also to Ole Christian Veiby and Stig Rune Skjaermoen for the second place and their excellent performance. While our competitors in WRC 2 were struggling, we could be more than happy with an absolute trouble free performance of both teams and their ŠKODA FABIA R5", commented Hrabánek.

On the podium in the harbour of Alghero the ŠKODA Motorsport team celebrated their ongoing winning streak. It was season win number seven and the tenth success in a row in WRC 2 for the ŠKODA FABIA R5. Out of the last 18 WRC 2 rallies, the Czech manufacturer won 17.



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Final Result Rally Italia Sardegna (WRC 2)

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 3:36:36.5 h
2. Veiby/Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +2:16.4 min.
3. Katsuta/Salminen (JPN/FIN), Ford Fiesta R5, +7:01.9 min.
4. Rossel/Fulcrand (FRA/FRA), Citroën DS3 R5, +10:4.9 min.
5. Loubet/Landais (FRA/FRA), Ford Fiesta R5, +23:49.7 min.

Current standings WRC 2 after seven rounds

1. Pontus Tidemand (SWE), ŠKODA, 100 points
2. Teemu Suninen (FIN), Ford, 54 points
3. Eric Camilli (FRA), Ford, 52 points
4. Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), ŠKODA, 50 points
5. Jan Kopecký (CZE), ŠKODA, 49 points
6. Ole Christian Veiby (NOR), 43 points

Number of the day: 7

The lucky seven marked the seventh victory in a row for ŠKODA in the World Rally Championship 2017 (WRC 2).

The 2017 calendar of 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

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Media images:



ŠKODA at Rally Italia Sardegna

Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler secured a dominant win in WRC 2 at Rally Italia Sardegna, driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at Rally Italia Sardegna

Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) set 13 fastest times in WRC 2 at Rally Italia Sardegna

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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.

