

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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Rally Bohemia: Kopecký/Dresler chase third win in a row at the home event of ŠKODA

- › With a victory at Rally Bohemia ŠKODA factory team Kopecký/Dresler could make a big step forward to their third Czech Rally Championship (MČR) title in a row
- › Winning combination of Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler and ŠKODA FABIA R5 undefeated in Czech Rally Championship (MČR) since April 2015
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: “Rally Bohemia every year is something really special for ŠKODA because it is run close to the company’s headquarters”

Mladá Boleslav, 28 June 2017 – For ŠKODA Motorsport and its factory team Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) a win at Rally Bohemia (1st/2nd July) would mean a perfect “homerun” – the fifth round of the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) is run in the vicinity of the ŠKODA headquarters in Mladá Boleslav. With another success Kopecký/Dresler could make a big step forward in their pursuit of winning the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the third time in a row. It would also be the third successive victory for ŠKODA at Rally Bohemia.

“Rally Bohemia is a very special event for ŠKODA because it’s run close to the company’s headquarters in Mladá Boleslav,” emphasizes ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek. “Jan and Pavel are doing a fantastic job in the Czech Rally Championship season so far. Four wins out of four rallies speak for themselves. I am sure, they are eager to win their home event in Mladá Boleslav as well,” adds Hrabánek.

Since they competed at Rally Šumava Klatovy in April 2015 for the very first time with the then new ŠKODA FABIA R5, Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler are undefeated on home soil. In total they won 14 rallies in a row in the national championship. “Naturally I want to defend my Czech title. Another victory would bring me an important step closer to this goal. Also I want to win Rally Bohemia to give the ŠKODA employees something to cheer. But Václav Pech is still a very strong competitor. He is fast and never gives up,” Kopecký looks ahead.

Among the 79 entries seven more ŠKODA FABIA R5 and various FABIA and other ŠKODA rally cars are listed in different classes and categories. Besides Jan Kopecký and Václav Pech also Jan Černý, driving a privately entered ŠKODA FABIA R5, can be expected to be among the frontrunners. Local hero Roman Kresta, a former World Rally Championship driver for ŠKODA, makes a welcome return to the Czech Rally Championship with another ŠKODA FABIA R5.

Fans should visit Rally Bohemia not only because of the stunning action on the stages. In the service park ŠKODA is hosting extensive spectator activities, the highlight being a competition with a spectacular grand prize – the winner gets a ŠKODA OCTAVIA RS 4x4 for the period of one year.

The first leg of this fifth round of the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) starts on Saturday (July 1st) at 14h00, consisting of five stages totalling 64.13 kilometres. The 2.6 kilometres street stage “Městská” right after the start in downtown Mladá Boleslav already offers plenty of action. On Sunday (July 2nd) the teams are facing six more stages. Around 16h00 after 150 kilometres on a total of eleven stages the winner is expected back at the finish in Mladá Boleslav.



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The 2017 calendar of 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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ŠKODA at Rally Bohemia

At Rally Bohemia Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE), driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, chase their fifth win in a row in the Czech Rally Championship.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at Rally Bohemia

Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) want to win the Rally Bohemia in Mladá Boleslav, the hometown of ŠKODA.

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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 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.

