

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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Rally Poland: Pontus Tidemand and Jonas Andersson want to continue WRC 2 winning streak for ŠKODA

- › Swedish ŠKODA duo going for their personal fifth WRC 2 win of the season
- › ŠKODA won every round of the WRC 2 championship in 2017 so far, aiming for the 11th win in a row since October 2016
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "Pontus and Jonas can make a big step forward in their pursuit of winning the 2017 WRC 2 title."

Mladá Boleslav, 28 June 2017 – Pontus Tidemand and co-driver Jonas Andersson (ŠKODA FABIA R5) are dominantly leading the WRC 2 championship. So far they competed in four WRC 2 rounds and won them all. With another victory at Rally Poland (June 29th to July 2nd), they would be in a strong position to win the World Rally Championship (WRC 2) this year. For ŠKODA Motorsport, another success would as well be the 11th WRC 2 win in a row since Rally Spain in October 2016.

"In Poland Pontus and Jonas can make a big step forward in their pursuit of winning the WRC 2 title," says ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek. Every competitor in WRC 2 can bring not more than six results into his overall tally. Tidemand/Andersson collected 100 points with four wins in four events. Among the entries in WRC 2 category in Rally Poland, ŠKODA is the strongest brand with six FABIA R5. "We are delighted that more and more teams trust in the speed and reliability of our ŠKODA FABIA R5. Up to now, we delivered more than 140 cars to customers worldwide," adds Hrabánek.

Rally Poland offers 23 special stages totalling 326 kilometres on very fast sandy roads in the picturesque countryside of the Masurian Lake District, a popular holiday region in Northern Poland. The rally is based in Mikolajki, which hosts the start on Thursday, 16h00 local time, finish on Sunday, 14h30, and in between three runs of a super special stage next to the service park.

"This year I already got a lot of experience on gravel," says ŠKODA driver Pontus Tidemand. "But the upcoming Rally Poland is very special – it is one of the fastest events of the World Rally Championship. Last year, I learnt a lot in Poland ending up in seventh position only – now I am aiming for the victory."

Pontus Tidemand and co-driver Jonas Andersson started their 2017 winning streak at Rally Sweden, taking top position at their home event on snow in convincing style. The tough gravel events in Mexico and Argentina saw another faultless performance of the Swedish duo. In Portugal they had well deserved luck to win another thrilling event with their ŠKODA FABIA R5. In Poland the ŠKODA factory team is again facing strong competition not only from Norwegian junior team Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen in a privately entered ŠKODA FABIA R5.

Until today ŠKODA won ten consecutive WRC 2 rallies in a row. This winning sequence started at Rally Spain in October 2016. Of the last 18 WRC 2 events the Czech manufacturer won 17.



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Did you know...

...that Rally Poland was first established in 1921 and is one of the world's oldest still existing rallies?

...that Rally Poland was included in the inaugural WRC season of 1973 and on this occasion only three teams were classified?

...that Rally Poland in 2009 returned to the WRC only for once before it was removed again from the calendar?

...that Rally Poland returned again in 2014 and is now, together with Rally Finland, one of the fastest events of the World Rally Championship?

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 Sardinia	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 Poland

At Rally Poland Pontus Tidemand and Jonas Andersson, driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, want to make a big step forward in their pursuit of winning the WRC 2 championship.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at Rally Poland

With four wins Pontus Tidemand (left) and co-driver Jonas Andersson (ŠKODA FABIA R5) so far are dominating the WRC 2 of 2017.

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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.

