

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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ADAC Rallye Deutschland: ŠKODA Motorsport and Pontus Tidemand with match point for title win

- › Pontus Tidemand and co-driver Jonas Andersson can prematurely win the World Rally Championship (WRC 2)
- › ŠKODA Motorsport can seal the FIA Team Championship in WRC 2 with one team car finishing at least fifth at upcoming ADAC Rallye Deutschland
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "Pontus proved that he deserves to be the next champion in WRC 2"

Mladá Boleslav, 14 August 2017 – ŠKODA Motorsport crews Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) and Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) are among the top favourites for WRC 2 victory at the upcoming ADAC Rallye Deutschland (17–20/08/2017). If one of its factory drivers finishes at least fifth ŠKODA Motorsport is the prematurely winner of the FIA Team Championship in WRC 2. In addition, Pontus Tidemand has match point for the WRC 2 driver's title. He has to score fourth or higher, at the same time main rival Teemu Suninen must not win the category.

„Pontus proved that he deserves to be the next champion in WRC 2 with his four wins and one second place during the season so far. With a little luck, he can secure the WRC 2 championship already in Germany”, says ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek.

ADAC Rallye Deutschland, tenth round of World Rally Championship 2017, is a mixture of 21 tarmac stages with totally different characteristics. On Friday (August 18th) tricky and small roads with uncountable hairpins in the vineyards along the river Mosel are waiting for the teams. On Saturday (August 19th) the legendary military area of Baumholder offers gruelling and fast tank tracks on rough concrete. They are framed by massive rocks, the infamous “Hinkelsteins”, which can be a real car stopper. Sunday (August 20th) features fast and smooth country roads in the area around the Bostalsee service park in the north of Saarland.

On this very challenging tarmac roads the new WRC 2 champion could be prematurely crowned. Out of the 13 rounds of World Rally Championship the WRC 2 registered teams had to nominate seven rallies, out of which only the six best results count for the final score. Three events (Portugal/Germany/Wales) are mandatory to be among these seven selected WRC 2 rallies. Gravel specialist Pontus Tidemand will prematurely become world champion at ADAC Rallye Deutschland if he wins. Fourth or higher would be enough as well, if main rival Teemu Suninen doesn't win the category.

Until today ŠKODA won twelve consecutive WRC 2 rallies in a row. This winning sequence started at the RallyRACC Catalunya in October 2016. All nine WRC 2 events in 2017 have been won by teams driving ŠKODA FABIA R5, which is by far the most successful car in its category. With seven entries in WRC 2 at ADAC Rallye Deutschland the ŠKODA FABIA R5 again is the most popular car in its category. Two more ŠKODA FABIAS, not registered in WRC 2, are among the entries in RC 2 class.





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Did you know...

... that Rallye Deutschland was first established in 1982 as part of the European Championship?

... that in 2002 Rallye Deutschland joined the WRC after former Rallye Deutschland and Hunsrueck Rally merged into one event the year before?

...that the changeable road conditions and mixed tarmac surfaces require a suitable compromise at the cars' suspension setup?

...that for the 2017 event the rally centre and the service park were moved from the historic Roman city of Trier to the holiday region Bostalsee in the federal state of Saarland?

The 2017 calendar for the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)

| <u>Event</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--|-------------------------|
| Rallye Monte Carlo | 19/01–22/01/2017 |
| Rally Sweden | 09/02–12/02/2017 |
| Rally Guanajuato México | 09/03–12/03/2017 |
| Tour de Corse – Rally France | 06/04–09/04/2017 |
| Rally Argentina | 27/04–30/04/2017 |
| Rally de Portugal | 18/05–21/05/2017 |
| Rally Italia Sardegna | 08/06–11/06/2017 |
| Rally Poland | 29/06–02/07/2017 |
| Rally Finland | 27/07–30/07/2017 |
| ADAC Rallye Deutschland | 17/08–20/08/2017 |
| RallyRACC Catalunya – Rallye de España | 05/10–08/10/2017 |
| Wales Rally GB | 26/10–29/10/2017 |
| Rally Australia | 16/11–19/11/2017 |

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Media images:



ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland

Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (ŠKODA FABIA R5) are aiming for a prematurely World Rally Championship title (WRC 2) at ADAC Rallye Deutschland

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland

Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE), driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, want to repeat their victory from 2015 at ADAC Rallye Deutschland

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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 (PY) 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 (Q) 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 (S/S) and Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) contest selected races in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2). Kopecký/Dresler also compete in the Czech Rally Championship (MČR), where they already claimed the 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, KAROQ, 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, Algeria 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.

