

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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ADAC Rallye Deutschland: Jan Kopecký and Pontus Tidemand with double lead for ŠKODA

- › Historic moment at ADAC Rallye Deutschland: Kopecký (ŠKODA FABIA R5) for the first time as a driver of a WRC 2 car took overall lead of a World Rally Championship event
- › ŠKODA Motorsport drivers leading WRC 2 category at ADAC Rallye Deutschland
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: “Jan and Pontus are demonstrating their supreme driving skills under extremely difficult weather conditions.”
- › While Kopecký is in the best position for victory, Tidemand can secure WRC 2 title

Bosen/Germany, 18 August 2017 – ŠKODA Motorsport crews Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) and Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) are holding a double lead after the opening day of ADAC Rallye Deutschland. Already on Thursday evening on the opening street stage in Saarbrücken Czech Rally Champion Kopecký wrote history: After the ŠKODA FABIA R5 driver won the first stage, for the first time ever a WRC 2 car took the overall lead of a World Championship rally. During Friday Kopecký defended his lead in the WRC 2 category with 5.8 seconds ahead of teammate Pontus Tidemand. If the result is the same at the finish on Sunday, ŠKODA Motorsport’s Swede would prematurely secure his World Champion title in WRC 2.

The first leg of ADAC Rallye Deutschland, tenth round of the FIA World Rally Championship 2017, featured a mixture of fast and narrow asphalt roads in the Saarland region as well as tricky and small tracks with uncountable hairpins in the vineyards along the river Mosel. During the morning loop, light rain and a mixture of dry and damp sections on the stages caused unpredictable road conditions. “I thought there would be more wet sections on the stages. So I opted for soft tyres, which was maybe not the best choice,” said Jan Kopecký who was in the lead after five stages with 5.9 second ahead of teammate Pontus Tidemand. “I overshoot a junction in the last stage, but apart from that, I had no problems,” commented the WRC 2 championship leader from Sweden.

After the midday break it started to rain heavily for the repeat of the morning loop. After a cautious approach in the first vineyard stage after the break, Tidemand set the fastest time in the next test and secured his second position. Although Jan Kopecký suffered a slow puncture, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 driver kept his lead until the end of the Friday leg.

ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek was delighted with the performance of the team’s drivers. “Jan and Pontus are demonstrating their supreme driving skills under extremely difficult weather conditions. They were fast, very concentrated and showed a faultless performance.”

On Saturday the legendary military area of Baumholder with gruelling and fast tank tracks on rough concrete, framed by massive rocks (the infamous “Hinkelsteins”), is waiting for the drivers. After the rainy Friday, the weather forecast promising sunshine for the rest of the rally is much more friendly. If main rival Teemu Suninen doesn’t win the category Pontus Tidemand needs to finish at least in fourth position to be crowned the new World Rally Champion in WRC 2.



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Standings ADAC Rallye Deutschland after leg 1 (WRC 2)

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 1:10:59.2 h.
2. Tidemand/Andersson (SWE/SWE) ŠKODA FABIA R5, + 5.8 sec.
3. Camilli/Veillas (FRA/FRA), Ford Fiesta R5, +19.6 sec.
4. Suninen/Markkula (FIN/FIN), Ford Fiesta R5, +28.8 sec.
5. GriebelKopczyk (DEU/DEU), ŠKODA FABIA R5, + 1:01.6 min.
6. Loubet/Landais (FRA/FRA), Ford Fiesta R5, +1:02.3 min.

Number of the day: 1

For the first time ever in the history of the FIA World Rally Championship a WRC 2 car was leading overall – when Jan Kopecký won stage number one.

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

Further information:

Zbyněk Straškraba, Communications Motorsport

P +420 605 293 168

zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

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Media images:



ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland

Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (ŠKODA FABIA R5) on second position 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, leading WRC 2 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.

