

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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ADAC Rallye Deutschland: Tidemand/Andersson and ŠKODA secure WRC 2 titles

- › With a faultless drive at ADAC Rallye Deutschland Pontus Tidemand and co-driver Jonas Andersson managed to prematurely win the World Rally Championship (WRC 2)
- › ŠKODA Motorsport already Team Champion in WRC 2 three rallies before end of season
- › Michal Hrabánek, ŠKODA Motorsport boss: "I am proud and happy for the whole team of ŠKODA Motorsport. Pontus and Jonas really deserve the title."

Bosen/Germany, 20 August 2017 – At ADAC Rallye Deutschland ŠKODA Motorsport crew Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) took the first match point to prematurely win the World Rally Championship (WRC 2). Teammates Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE), delayed by a puncture on the second day of the rally, finished a strong second. With this result ŠKODA Motorsport also secured the WRC 2 Team Championship three rallies before the end of the season.

After twisty vineyard stages on rainy Friday followed by sun-baked concrete tracks on the infamous military area of Baumholder, the last day of ADAC Rallye Deutschland offered mixed conditions on four very fast stages in the Saarland area close to Lake Bostal.

With a fast and controlled drive Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) secured their overnight second place in WRC 2 category. A possible win slipped through their fingers on Saturday when they suffered a puncture on the 42 kilometres long "Panzerplatte" stage on Baumholder. "That's rallying. From there on we concentrated on bringing home the second place and used the rally as a kind of extra training for the Barum Rally next weekend," said the reigning Czech Rally Champion.

For the Swedish pairing Pontus Tidemand and co-dodriver Jonas Andersson the challenge was different. "After a puncture on Saturday we were literally in the middle of nowhere, with a gap to Jan in front of us and a comfortable margin to the fourth position in the WRC 2 classification. On the last day, it was all about bringing the car to the finish in one piece in order to win the drivers' title and give the team the reward it deserves," commented the Swedish ŠKODA driver. After four wins (Sweden, Mexico, Argentina and Portugal) and a second place at Rally Poland, a third place at ADAC Rallye Deutschland was enough for Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson to secure the World Rally Championship (WRC 2) already three rallies before the end of the season.

On the podium at Lake Bostal ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek could celebrate not only the drivers' title but as well the win of the Team Championship in WRC 2: "I am proud and happy for the whole team. Pontus and Jonas really deserve the title. And our ŠKODA FABIA R5, which so far is sold more than 160 times to customers worldwide, proved as well that it is the best rally car in its category."



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Final result ADAC Rallye Deutschland (WRC 2)

1. Camilli/Veillas (FRA/FRA), Ford Fiesta R5, 3:08:16.0 h.
2. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +48.1 sec.
3. Tidemand/Andersson (SWE/SWE) ŠKODA FABIA R5, + 1:50.7 min.
4. Gilbert/Jamoul (FRA/FRA), ŠKODA FABIA R5, + 3:03.4 min.
5. Loubet/Landais (FRA/FRA), Ford Fiesta R5, 3:48.9 min.
6. Tempestini/Bernacchini (ITA/ITA), Citroën DS3 R5, 3:50.8 min.

Current standings WRC 2 after ten rounds

1. Pontus Tidemand (SWE), ŠKODA, 133 points
2. Eric Camilli (FRA), Ford, 77 points
3. Ole Christian Veiby (NOR), ŠKODA, 68 points
4. Jan Kopecký (CZE), ŠKODA, 67 points
5. Teemu Suninen (FIN), Ford, 60 points

Number of the day: 3

Already three rallies before the end of the season Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson secured the drivers' titles and ŠKODA won the Team Championship in WRC 2.

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

With a third place at ADAC Rallye Deutschland Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (ŠKODA FABIA R5) prematurely won the World Rally Championship (WRC 2)

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland

Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) finished second in WRC 2 at ADAC Rallye Deutschland and helped ŠKODA Motorsport to win the Team Championship

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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.

