

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Barum Czech Rally Zlín: Reigning champions Kopecký/Dresler aiming for home win for ŠKODA

- › ŠKODA factory team Kopecký/Dresler already secured 2017 Czech Rally Championship (MČR) with five wins in a row
- › With 18 entries ŠKODA FABIA R5 is the most popular car in its category
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: “Jan and Pavel had a fantastic season so far. Now they are eager to win the prestigious Rally Zlín.”

**Mladá Boleslav, 22 August 2017 – At Rally Bohemia Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) secured their third consecutive title driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5. At the upcoming Barum Czech Rally Zlín (25/08–27/08/2017) the Champions will not only face tough competition from teams competing in the Czech Rally Championship. The rally is also part of the FIA European Rally Championship. So European top teams as well will start on Friday afternoon in Zlín, the rally’s hometown in Moravia.**

“Jan and Pavel had a fantastic season so far,” says ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek. “Now they are eager to win the prestigious rally in Czech Republic,” adds Hrabánek. After two top results in the World Rally Championship (WRC 2) with a victory at Rally Italy Sardinia and second place in Germany, Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) are currently in fourth position in the WRC 2 championship standings.

Since Rally Šumava Klatovy 2015 the combination Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE) and the ŠKODA FABIA R5 is undefeated. This year they won each of the five rounds of the Czech Rally Championship (MČR). The recently crowned Czech rally champion Jan Kopecký won Barum Czech Rally Zlín six times so far. In total Kopecký/Dresler scored 15 victories in the national championship.

“Last year, I had a thrilling fight with Ford driver Alexey Lukyanuk, says Jan Kopecký. “I had to go flat out all the time to win this rally. I am really looking forward to an interesting challenge and want to add win number seven on the Barum Czech Rally Zlín to my track record.” The rally belongs to the most important motorsport events of the Czech Republic. On Friday, 25 August, the ceremonial start will take place at 16h00 in the city centre of Zlín. Start will be followed by autograph session of Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler. At 21h27 the spectacular Super Special Stage is planned. In total, the teams will have to face 15 special stages summing up to about 204 kilometres, at Sunday, 16h25, the winner will cross the finish Line in Zlín. The host city, in the southeastern part of the Czech Republic, and is surrounded with marvellous forest areas.

Also rally fans can feel like a winner, they should not only come because of the spectacular action on the special stages of Barum Czech Rally Zlín. On the square in the centre (náměstí Míru), ŠKODA is hosting interesting spectator activities, the highlight is a special competition with a spectacular top prize – the winner of gets a ŠKODA OCTAVIA RS 4x4 for the period of one year.



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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
<b>Barum Czech Rally Zlín</b>	<b>25/08–27/08/2017</b>
Rally Příbram	06/10–08/10/2017

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#### ŠKODA at Barum Czech Rally Zlín

After five wins in a row at Czech Rally Championship, Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE), driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, come as reigning champions to Barum Czech Rally Zlín.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



#### ŠKODA at Barum Czech Rally Zlín

Jan Kopecký (ŠKODA FABIA R5) is targeting another win in the most prestigious rally in Czech Republic.

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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, 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.

