

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## ADAC Rallye Deutschland: Pontus Tidemand and ŠKODA on track for winning both WRC 2 titles

- › Pontus Tidemand and Jonas Andersson have to manage 52 kilometres and four special stages on the last day of ADAC Rallye Deutschland to win the WRC 2 Championship
- › ŠKODA Motorsport in the best position to become Team Champion in WRC 2 as well
- › Jan Kopecký and Pontus Tidemand suffered punctures turning the intermediate double lead for ŠKODA into second and third position
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "It was bad luck for both Jan and Pontus. But we are still on track to fix both WRC 2 titles on the final day of the rally."

Bosen/Germany, 19 August 2017 – ŠKODA Motorsport crews Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) and Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) lost their double lead on the second day of ADAC Rallye Deutschland. After both suffered punctures on the longest stage of the rally, the notorious Panzerplatte, Jan Kopecký dropped from the lead to second position at the end of the day. Meanwhile Pontus Tidemand is holding third place and still is in the best position to prematurely win the World Rally Championship in WRC 2. At the same time ŠKODA Motorsport can secure the WRC 2 Team Championship.

After heavy rainfalls during the first leg on Friday, blue sky and sunshine were overlooking the toughest day of ADAC Rallye Deutschland, tenth round of the FIA World Rally Championship 2017. The famous military area of Baumholder was waiting with fast and rough concrete tracks, usually used by tanks. Twice nearly 42 kilometres of "Panzerplatte" were the most demanding tests on Saturday.

WRC 2 leaders Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) had a smooth and trouble-free run during the first loop with their ŠKODA FABIA R5, while teammates Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) ran into problems. On the last quarter of the 42 kilometres long stage, a tyre deflated. "I really didn't hit anything. The right rear tyre went flat, came off the rim and caused some damage to the bodywork of the car," commented Tidemand. He managed to finish the stage with a time loss of around 50 seconds and dropped from second to third in the category. His ŠKODA FABIA R5 proved again to be rock solid after the cosmetic damage has been repaired at the midday service, he could restart for the second loop. His main rival Teemu Suninen also suffered a puncture but lost more than two and a half minutes. "Now we are in the standings in the middle of nowhere, I have to stay concentrated and to bring the car to the finish", said the Swedish ŠKODA driver.

On the second run of the long Panzerplatte stage, Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler got a puncture. But they changed the tyre in a record fast time of less than one and a half minutes and continued their drive. "I was braking on the racing line and suddenly on the next corner, the front left tyre was flat and we had to stop and change it," commented the Czech Rally Champion.

"It was bad luck for Jan and Pontus, but that's rallying. Now we want to fix the WRC 2 title on the final day of the rally," said ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek.





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Pontus Tidemand and Jonas Andersson only have to master the remaining four special stages of roughly 52 kilometres during Sunday. Their task is clear: Finishing not lower than fourth in the category, while main rival Teemu Suninen must not win WRC 2.

## Standings ADAC Rallye Deutschland after leg 2 (WRC 2)

1. Camilli/Veillas (FRA/FRA), Ford Fiesta R5, 2:40:14.1 h.
2. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +1:12.2 min.
3. Tidemand/Andersson (SWE/SWE) ŠKODA FABIA R5, + 1:23.4 min.
4. Greensmith/Parry (GBR/GBR), Ford Fiesta R5, 2:07.3 min.
5. Gilbert/Jamoul (FRA/FRA), ŠKODA FABIA R5, + 2:57.5 min.
6. Suninen/Markkula (FIN/FIN), Ford Fiesta R5, 3:04.0 min.

Number of the day: 4

Four more stages to go – and Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson can be prematurely become World Rally Champions (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        |
| <b>ADAC Rallye Deutschland</b>         | <b>17/08–20/08/2017</b> |
| 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 on third position and can prematurely secure the championship (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), suffering a puncture on their ŠKODA FABIA R5, dropped to second in WRC 2 at ADAC Rallye Deutschland

[Download](#)

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.

