

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 1 of 5



Three ŠKODA Motorsport crews at Rally Monte Carlo - Jan Kopecký aiming for victory in WRC 2

- › Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler compete in the opening round of the 2018 World Rally Championship (WRC 2) with a ŠKODA FABIA R5 carrying the tricolour of the Czech flag
- › ŠKODA juniors Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen and Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen will be focused on gaining experience
- › 17 years old ŠKODA junior Kalle Rovanperä is the youngest driver on the entry list
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "A great result from Jan Kopecký at Rally Monte Carlo would continue our success story from last year's WRC 2 championship"

Mladá Boleslav, 18 January 2018 – ŠKODA Motorsport will compete at the upcoming Rally Monte Carlo (25/01–28/01/2018) with three ŠKODA FABIA R5 crews. Czech Champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) fight for the victory in WRC 2 category. Their car is carrying the tricolour of the Czech flag, paying tribute to the 100th birthday of the founding date of Czechoslovakia. Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR) and Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) are this time not nominated to score championship points for WRC 2 classification. In order to get more experience on one of the most challenging World Championship rallies, they are competing in the RC2 class.

"Rally Monte Carlo 2017 for me was a very special moment in my career. Andreas Mikkelsen and Jan Kopecký not only secured a double win in WRC 2 category. They also achieved seventh and eighth position overall amongst much more powerful WRC cars. I am really looking forward to see whether Jan can repeat his fantastic result from last year", explains ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek.

Paying tribute to the founding date of Czechoslovakia back in 1918, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 of Jan Kopecký will carry the tricolour of the Czech flag. "I feel honoured that I can represent my home country at Rally Monte Carlo already with this very special design. I'm dying to start the season", admits the reigning Czech Champion. According to Kopecký, due to the changing weather conditions with dry and wet tarmac, icy patches and snow the tyre choice is key to success. The 35-year old veteran is competing for the seventh time at Rally Monte Carlo. In contrast, 17 years old ŠKODA junior Kalle Rovanperä is a newcomer to the WRC's most prestigious event and is the youngest driver on the entry list. His teammate, the 21 years old O.C. Veiby, makes his third attempt at Rally Monte Carlo, albeit for the first time in a four-wheel driven car.

"Each driver can nominate only seven out of 13 World Championship rounds for his points score. That means six rallies do not have an impact on the final standings. This is what we take advantage of at Rally Monte Carlo. Without any pressure our youngsters Kalle and O.C. can gain experience under the most difficult conditions", explains ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek.

The start into the new season is a very busy one for ŠKODA Motorsport: While the Rally Monte Carlo is running the brand's motorsport department is moving into new facilities close to ŠKODA's Mladá Boleslav factory.



ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 2 of 5



In total, 17 stages will be waiting for the competitors, covering a distance of approximately 395 kilometres. The first leg of the Rally Monte Carlo will start on Thursday (25 January) at 18h00 in front of the principality's famous Casino. Two demanding stages in the dark will follow, before the teams will arrive around midnight for the rest halt in Gap in the French Alps. On Friday and Saturday, the crews are facing eleven more stages, before on Saturday evening the rally returns to the service park set up in the harbour of Monte Carlo. Sunday (28 January) features four more stages, among them two runs over the famous Col de Turini.

Did you know...

...that Rally Monte Carlo, first run in 1911, is the oldest event of today's WRC calendar?

...that it was originally designed in order to promote Monte Carlo as a tourist destination

...that until 1997 competitors were starting from different corners of Europe in a so-called "concentration run" before the competitors were reunited and the real action started?

...that in 2018 the famous 37 kilometres long "Sisteron" stage is run in reverse direction in the dark as the first test on the opening Thursday?

...that the tyre choice is extremely difficult and crucial at Rally Monte Carlo? The teams have to tackle between two and three stages with the four tyres mounted on the car plus maximum two spare wheels. Therefore tyre decision is mostly a compromise

...that therefore crews often fit their car for example with a mixture of studded winter tyres and slick tyres in all kind of combinations in order to somehow meet the changing road conditions?

...that on Sunday the prize-giving ceremony will be held in front of the Palace in Monaco with His Highness Prince Albert presenting the awards?





ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 3 of 5

The 2018 calendar of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Monte Carlo	25/01–28/01/2018
Sweden	15/02–18/02/2018
Mexico	08/03–11/03/2018
France	05/04–08/04/2018
Argentina	26/04–29/04/2018
Portugal	17/05–20/05/2018
Italy	07/06–10/06/2018
Finland	26/07–29/07/2018
Germany	16/08–19/08/2018
Turkey	13/09–16/09/2018
Great Britain	04/10–07/10/2018
Spain	25/10–28/10/2018
Australia	15/11–18/11/2018

Further information:

Zbyněk Straškraba, Communications Motorsport

P +420 605 293 168

zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

ŠKODA Motorsport:

 Facebook  YouTube  Twitter

Media images:



ŠKODA at Rally Monte Carlo

Paying tribute to the 100th birthday of the founding date of Czechoslovakia, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 of Jan Kopecný/Pavel Dresler will carry the tricolour of the Czech flag at Rally Monte Carlo.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 4 of 5



ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER



ŠKODA at Rally Monte Carlo

Paying tribute to the 100th birthday of the founding date of Czechoslovakia, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 of Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler will carry the tricolour of the Czech flag at Rally Monte Carlo.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at Rally Monte Carlo

Paying tribute to the 100th birthday of the founding date of Czechoslovakia, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 of Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler will carry the tricolour of the Czech flag at Rally Monte Carlo.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at Rally Monte Carlo

Jan Kopecký (right) and co-driver Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) want to win the WRC 2 category at the opening round of the World Rally Championship 2018, the Rally Monte Carlo.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO





ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 5 of 5

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.

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 the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) 2016, Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) won the title for the Czech car maker. 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.

2017 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport. Works duo Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (S/S) became WRC 2 Champions, ŠKODA Motorsport won the Team Championship. Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) won the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the third time in a row and are the spearhead of in total 14 crews winning their country's national titles. Furthermore the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC) have been won by teams competing in a ŠKODA FABIA R5.

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, YETI, 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 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.

