

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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Rally Italia Sardegna: Double for ŠKODA in WRC 2 – Jan Kopecký wins ahead of teammate O.C. Veiby

- › Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) scored their third WRC 2 win of the season at the FIA World Rally Championship round on Sardinia
- › With a stunning performance ŠKODA juniors Ole Christian Veiby and Stig Rune Skjaermoen stormed to second place, moving up to third overall in the WRC 2 standings
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: “What a fantastic performance from Jan and O.C., now ŠKODA won six out of seven rounds of the WRC 2 category in 2018.”

Alghero, 10 June 2018 – Time to celebrate in the beautiful harbour of Alghero on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia: At Rally Italia Sardegna ŠKODA Motorsport achieved a double victory, in total the sixth WRC 2 win out of seven rounds of the FIA World Rally Championship 2018. Jan Kopecký (CZE) and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZE) powered their ŠKODA FABIA R5 to their third season victory in the WRC 2 category. ŠKODA juniors Ole Christian “O.C.” Veiby and Stig Rune Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR) finished second after an impressive race to catch up. ŠKODA factory drivers Pontus Tidemand (who as planned was not competing this weekend), Jan Kopecký and O.C. Veiby are now holding the top three positions of the WRC 2 championship standings.

Sun and fun, rain and pain, fog and blue sky, dust and mud: The 2018 Rally Italia Sardegna offered all kind of weather and road conditions for the crews facing 20 stages totalling more than 314 kilometres on the beautiful Mediterranean island. ŠKODA works crew Jan Kopecký (CZE) and Pavel Dresler (CZE) held a comfortable lead of more than three minutes going into the last day of the rally. Their young teammates Ole Christian Veiby and Stig Rune Skjaermoen had recovered from their Friday’s mishap, when they were delayed by a suspension issue. During Saturday they already stormed from eighth to third position with a string of six fastest times. But on the final day of the rally, they clearly wanted more. On the remaining four stages over 42 kilometres, they tried to close a 28.2 second gap to second place in the WRC 2 category.

And “O.C.” Veiby and Stig Rune Skjaermoen launched their attack proper on the first Sunday stage being a full 12 seconds quicker than second placed Hyundai driver Ciamin, closing the gap down to 16.2 seconds! While Jan Kopecký admitted “I am nearly driving around every stone on the track and want to bring my ŠKODA FABIA R5 and the victory home”, Ole Christian Veiby continued his massive attack. On the 6.96 kilometres long 18th stage he was again 11.6 seconds quicker than his rival and reduced the gap to 4.6 seconds. One stage later, Veiby finally managed to conquer second place, eventually bringing it to the finish in Alghero. With this amazing result, he moved into third position of the interim WRC 2 championship standings.

ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek concluded: “What a fantastic performance from Jan and O.C. alike, which makes me proud and happy! Now we won six out of seven rounds of the WRC 2 category in 2018 and we are on a good way to defend our titles. Concerning the driver’s championship, Pontus and Jan will do the same number of events until the end of the season and will have an equal chance in the title fight – may the best win!”



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Final Result Rally Italia Sardegna (WRC 2)

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 3:42:33.3 h
2. Veiby/Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +3:02.6 min.
3. Ciamin/de la Haye (FRA/FRA), Hyundai i20, +3:18.7 min.
4. Andolfi/Scattolin (ITA/ITA), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +6:32.2 min.
5. Pieniazek/Mazur (POL/POL), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +7:11.3 min.

Current championship standings WRC 2 (after 7 of 13 rounds)

1. Tidemand (SWE), ŠKODA, 93 points
2. Kopecký (CZE) ŠKODA, 75 points
3. Veiby (NOR), ŠKODA, 45 points
4. Greensmith (GBR), Ford, 40 points
Pieniazek (POL), ŠKODA, 40 points

Number of the day: 11

At Rally Italia Sardegna, ŠKODA junior O.C. Veiby won eleven out of 20 stages in the WRC 2 category and finished his impressive race in second place behind winner and ŠKODA teammate Jan Kopecký.





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

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Monte-Carlo	24/01/–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

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ŠKODA at Rally Italia Sardegna 2018

Reigning Czech Champions Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE), driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, scored their third season win in the WRC 2 category of the FIA World Rally Championship 2018

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at Rally Italia Sardegna 2018

Norwegian ŠKODA juniors Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen fought back from eight to second position in the WRC 2 category at Rally Italia Sardegna

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO





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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.

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, KAROQ, KODIAQ and SUPERB.
- › in 2017 delivered more than 1.2 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 35,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

