

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



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## **ADAC Rallye Deutschland: ŠKODA driver Kopecký leads WRC 2 – Rovanperä in fifth position**

- › ŠKODA works crew Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler with their ŠKODA FABIA R5 control the WRC 2 category at the championship's ninth round
- › After day two ŠKODA Motorsport youngster Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen also have the WRC 2 podium in sight
- › ŠKODA crews set six fastest times on the seven stages of Thursday and Friday

**Bosen, 17 August 2018 – After the second day of the ADAC Rallye Deutschland (16–19/08/2018) newly crowned Czech Rally Champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) are leading in the WRC 2 category interim standings. Their young ŠKODA teammates Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen are in fifth position and after a clever drive still have a podium position in reach.**

ADAC Rallye Deutschland started on Thursday evening with a show special stage in the streets of St. Wendel, a village some 36 kilometres in the northwest of the county's capital Saarbrücken. On the short stage, the ŠKODA factory crews proved to be real street fighters. Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) set the second quickest time overall, followed by their teammates Ole Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen (NOR/NOR) – this time not registered in the WRC 2 classification – and the Czech Rally Champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE). In RC 2 class, they held the top three positions after the first stage, but Kopecký admitted: "It was a lot of fun to drive our ŠKODA FABIA R5 on these narrow streets, but the real rally will start tomorrow."

With "real rally" Jan Kopecký meant the stages in the famous vineyards along the river Mosel, which on Friday were waiting for the crews. The weather was sunny on the first stage of the morning loop, but for the afternoon some rain was predicted. In combination with the narrow roads, which are often covered with mud in the corners, a real challenge was waiting for the competitors. While Jan Kopecký set the fastest time and stormed into the category lead, 17 years old Kalle Rovanperä chose a careful approach and held on to fifth position.

Into the third stage, it finally started to rain. However, Kopecký managed to defend his WRC 2 lead. "Ten kilometres after the start of the stage, it began to rain heavily. There was even standing water on some places," reported the Czech Rally Champion.

His teammate Kalle Rovanperä, starting further down in the order, was strongly affected by the rain, lost valuable time and dropped to the eighth position. "We could have gone much faster, but we took it cautious," resumed the young Finn. With a fastest time in the WRC 2 category for the fourth stage, he moved up to the seventh place in the WRC 2 interim classification.

After the service break, the crews had to face the repetition of the morning loop – and the weather forecast was unpredictable again, same as in the morning. But in the afternoon, there were no additional rainfalls and with three fastest times, Jan Kopecký managed to increase his lead to more than 22 seconds. His young teammate Kalle Rovanperä, after a clever ride in fifth position, still has a podium position in reach. Saturday's (18 August) focus will be with eight special stages mainly on the military area of Baumholder and the famous "Panzerplatte".

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

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 1:04:06.8 h
2. Bonato/Boulloud (FRA/FRA), Citroën C3 R5, +22.2 sec.
3. Camilli/Veillas, (FRA/FRA), Ford Fiesta R5, +22.3 sec.
4. Kajetanovicz/Szepaniak (POL/POL), Ford Fiesta R5, +37.0 sec.
5. Rovannerä/Halttunen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +38.8 sec.
6. Solans/Ibáñez (ESP/ESP), Ford Fiesta R5, +46.5 sec.

Number of the day: 6

During ADAC Rallye Deutschland's first two days ŠKODA crews set six fastest WRC 2 times. Jan Kopecký won three, Kalle Rovannerä two and ŠKODA Auto Deutschland's Fabian Kreim one stage.

## 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
<b>Germany</b>	<b>16/08–19/08/2018</b>
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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## Media images:



### ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland 2018

After the second day of ADAC Rallye Deutschland ŠKODA works crew Jan Kopecký/ Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) control the lead in WRC 2

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland 2018

Finnish ŠKODA junior crew Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5) are currently in fifth position in the WRC 2 category

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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.

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.