

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



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Rally Turkey: ŠKODA drivers Jan Kopecký and Pontus Tidemand in open fight for WRC 2 title

- › ŠKODA works crews Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler and Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson compete in ŠKODA FABIA R5 for overall lead in world championship's WRC 2 category
- › Both ŠKODA works crews drive their respective fifth WRC rally of the 2018 season; Kopecký leads teammate Tidemand by seven points only in the WRC 2 classification
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "There will be no team orders in Turkey, Jan and Pontus are allowed an open fight for victory and WRC 2 title."
- › ŠKODA crews have so far won eight out of nine rallies of the WRC 2 championship 2018

Mladá Boleslav, 6 September 2018 – ŠKODA works crews are dominating the WRC 2 category of the FIA World Rally Championship 2018. With four victories, Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) are the overall leaders by just seven points from teammates Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE), who won three rounds and finished second in one event. At the upcoming Rally Turkey Marmaris (13–16/09/2018), both works crews are competing directly against each other for the first time in 2018. The one who is more successful can approach considerably to the final victory in this season WRC 2 championship.

Rally Turkey Marmaris as the place for the direct title fight was chosen carefully by ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek. "Pontus and Jan will do the same number of events until the end of the season to have an equal chance in the title fight. In Turkey, they are fighting directly against each other for the first time in 2018," he said. "Neither Pontus nor Jan have any experience of the country's WRC round. Each stage is new for them, they have equal chances."

On the tough gravel stages both ŠKODA works crews can rely on their ŠKODA FABIA R5, which is not only currently the most successful rally car in its category, it is ultra-reliable as well. Since its homologation in April 2015, no factory entered ŠKODA FABIA R5 had to retire due to a technical fault, neither in the FIA World Rally Championship nor in the Czech national series.

Jan Kopecký has an impressive 2018 winning streak; he simply won every rally he competed in. Victories at six Czech Championship rallies lead to a premature title win in his home country. In addition the reigning Czech Champion won four WRC 2 rounds. By winning the WRC 2 category at the all gravel Rally Italia Sardegna he also proved that he is not a pure tarmac specialist any longer. On the other hand reigning WRC 2 title winner Pontus Tidemand drove his last WRC 2 rally in Portugal back in May where he proved his impressive speed on gravel. After successful pre-event tests both ŠKODA drivers are travelling to Turkey well prepared.

Rally Turkey Marmaris starts on Thursday (13 September) at 20h08 with a 2.45 kilometres long show stage downtown Marmaris. Friday (14 September) will feature the longest leg of the rally with six stages totalling 145.10 kilometres. Saturday (15 September) features six more stages over 134.20 kilometres. After 17 tests totalling 317.25 kilometres, the winner will reach the podium in Marmaris on Sunday (16 September) at around 13h00.



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Did you know,

...that Turkey held its first international rally back in 1972, starting and finishing in Istanbul?

...that in 1999 the idea of creating an all-new event as WRC candidate was born and the first Rally Turkey took place in 2000, based in Izmir?

...that Rally Turkey, based in Antalya/Kemer, debuted 2003 in the FIA World Rally Championship with only 26 of 60 entries finishing?

... that in 2010 the rally moved to the region near Istanbul and left the championship afterwards, returning to the WRC calendar in 2018 as a replacement for Rally Poland?

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 Turkey Marmaris 2018

ŠKODA works crew Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) is the current leader of the WRC 2 category standings.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at Rally Turkey Marmaris 2018

Reigning WRC 2 Champions Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (ŠKODA FABIA R5) want to strengthen their title defense with a top result at the upcoming Rally Turkey Marmaris.

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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. In 2018 Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) managed to win the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the fourth consecutive time.

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- › 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.

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