



**ŠKODA**  
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# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Ole Christian Veiby leaves ŠKODA Motorsport

- › Ole Christian Veiby and co-driver Stig Rune Skjaermoen are not part of ŠKODA Motorsport's junior program any longer
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "I would like to express my thankfulness to O.C. Veiby and Stig Rune Skjaermoen, I wish them both all the best for the future."

Mladá Boleslav, 21 September 2018 – ŠKODA Motorsport so far enjoys the most successful year in its history. At the recent Rally Turkey Marmaris, the Czech manufacturer prematurely for the fourth time in a row won the FIA WRC 2 Championship for Teams, this time three rallies before the season final (*subject to official publication of the results by the FIA*). Nevertheless, the preparation for the upcoming season has already started. This year's ŠKODA Motorsport youngster Ole Christian Veiby and co-driver Stig Rune Skjaermoen will leave the factory team.

ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek explains: "We will modify our motorsport strategy for 2019. Based on this, Ole Christian Veiby and Stig Rune Skjaermoen will leave the team. I would like to thank both of them for the contribution they made to our successful 2018 season, I wish them all the best for the future. We will officially announce our future plans and 2019 driver line-up during the annual press conference, which will take place later this year.

Ole Christian Veiby and Stig Rune Skjaermoen competed for team MRF with a ŠKODA FABIA R5 in the 2017 FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship, eventually conquered second overall for drivers and co-drivers as well as helping ŠKODA to win the manufacturers title. In 2018, the Norwegian youngsters were part of the factory team, achieving good results in the FIA World Rally Championship's WRC 2 category like a second place at Rally Italia Sardegna and a third position at Rally Sweden.

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## Media image:



### ŠKODA at FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)

Ole Christian Veiby and co-driver Stig Rune Skjaermoen look back at a successful time with ŠKODA Motorsport.

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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.

## 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.

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