

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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Rallye Monte-Carlo: ŠKODA's Kalle Rovanperä heads 31 crews strong entry of R5 cars

- › At the opening round of the FIA 2018 World Rally Championship, Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen lead the entry of 13 ŠKODA crews competing at Rally Monte Carlo
- › ŠKODA Motorsport chasing manufacturer points in new WRC 2 Pro category of the FIA World Rally Championship with factory driver Kalle Rovanperä
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "We are proud, that more than one third of the R5 cars are ŠKODA FABIA R5."

Mladá Boleslav, 22 January 2019 – ŠKODA Motorsport works crew Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen start their motorsport season at the upcoming Rallye Monte-Carlo (24/01–27/01/2019). After finishing second in class last year, they are now aiming for class victory at the most prestigious rally of the 2019 season. In total, among 31 crews competing with a R5 rally car, 13 rely on the ŠKODA FABIA R5, the most successful rally car in its class so far. ŠKODA Motorsport also has registered Rovanperä into the new WRC 2 Pro category of the FIA World Rally Championship.

The legendary Rallye Monte Carlo will open the 2019 season of the FIA World Rally Championship. The most unpredictable event of the series, notorious for ever-changing road conditions, is also the most prestigious one. Ice, snow, rain, fog and dry roads with traps of loose gravel – the "Monte" offers all kind of road surfaces. "You cannot go flat out all the time, you have to predict the unpredictable. The right tire choice is sometimes like a lottery. But I love this event – especially when there is a lot of ice and snow. This year, I want to build up on the experience I made last year," says Kalle Rovanperä.

"In 2019, our focus is even more on our customers. I am happy and proud to see, that with 13 crews more than one third of the crews competing with a R5 rally car trusts our ŠKODA FABIA R5," emphasizes ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek. ŠKODA Motorsport also has registered Kalle Rovanperä into the all-new WRC 2 Pro category of the FIA World Rally Championship.

The first leg of the Rallye Monte-Carlo starts on Thursday (24 January) at 18h50 in the village of Gap, which is situated in the middle of the French Alps. On the opening day, the crews have to face two stages in the dark, each of them more than 20 kilometres long. On Friday and Saturday (25/26 January), more stages follow before the teams head south to Monte Carlo. The Sunday leg (27 January) features four more stages, among them two runs over the famous Col de Turini. In total, the crews have to tackle 16 special stages covering roughly 323 kilometres.



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Did you know...

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

...that the Rallye Monte Carlo was originally designed in order to promote Monte-Carlo as a tourist destination? Until 1998 the teams – although that year the factory teams were exempt – started from different corners of Europe and sometimes even North Africa in a so-called "Concentration Run", an endurance test before the competitors were united in Monaco or somewhere in Southern France and the real action started?

...the Rallye Monte-Carlo is the only WRC event, where teams have to choose between four types of tyres: slicks, slicks with some studs, winter tyres and winter tyres with studs.

...that the tyre choice is extremely difficult and crucial at Rallye Monte-Carlo? The teams have to tackle between two and three stages with the four tyres mounted on the car plus a maximum of two spare wheels. Because all too often one stage is covered with snow, the next one icy, wet or dry, tyre choice mostly is 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 this year the price-giving ceremony on Sunday will be held at Qui Albert 1er, overlooking the famous harbour?

The calendar of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2 Pro)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Monte-Carlo	24/01/–27/01/2019
Sweden	14/02/–17/02/2019
Mexico	07/03/–10/03/2019
France	28/03/–31/03/2019
Argentina	25/04/–28/04/2019
Chile	09/05/–12/05/2019
Portugal	30/05/–02/06/2019
Italy	13/06/–16/06/2019
Finland	01/08/–04/08/2019
Germany	22/08/–25/08/2019
Turkey	12/09/–15/09/2019
Great Britain	03/10/–06/10/2019
Spain	24/10/–27/10/2019
Australia	14/11/–17/11/2019

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ŠKODA at Rallye Monte-Carlo 2019

ŠKODA Motorsport works crew Kalle Rovannerä/Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5) aims for a class win at the upcoming Rallye Monte Carlo.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at Rallye Monte-Carlo 2019

Kalle Rovannerä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5) came second in the WRC 2 category of the FIA World Rally Championship 2018.

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ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

2018 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport so far. Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) became WRC 2 champions and managed to win the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the fourth consecutive time. 2017 WRC 2 winners Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson finished second overall, and youngsters Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) completed a pure ŠKODA podium in the final standings of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship's WRC 2 category. For the fourth time in a row ŠKODA Motorsport won the WRC 2 Championship for Teams.

The success story of the Czech brand took place worldwide. The private ŠKODA driver Yuya Sumiyama and navigator Takahiro Yasui from Japan won the 2018 FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) took the title win in the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC). After winning the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) in 2013, 2016 and 2017, ŠKODA crew Gustavo Saba/Fernando Mussano (PRY/ARG) again were successful. On top of that, ŠKODA crews won 17 national championships.

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.

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.

ŠKODA AUTO

- › was founded during the pioneering days of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established automobile companies in the world.
- › currently offers its customers nine passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ, as well as the KAMIQ (in China) and the SUPERB.
- › delivered more than 1.25 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2018.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. In association with the Group, ŠKODA AUTO independently develops and manufactures vehicles, as well as components such as engines and transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs over 35,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer to the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.