



**ŠKODA**  
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# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Competitive debut of the updated ŠKODA FABIA R5 in Czech Rally Championship

- › WRC 2 champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler will compete with the updated ŠKODA FABIA R5 at Rally Český Krumlov (17/05–18/05/2019) for the very first time
- › FIA World Rally Championship premiere scheduled for Rally Portugal end of May
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: “We want to deliver the first new cars to our customers in the second half of the year.”

Mladá Boleslav, 2 May 2019 – The updated and freshly homologated version of the ŠKODA FABIA R5 will have its debut with Jan Kopecký (CZE) and co-driver Pavel Dresler (CZE) at Rally Český Krumlov (17/05–18/05/2019). The new Czech rally car will race in the FIA World Rally Championship for the first time at the upcoming Rally Portugal (30/05–02/06/2019). It will be driven by reigning WRC 2 champion Jan Kopecký and ŠKODA teammate Kalle Rovanperä respectively.

The updated ŠKODA FABIA R5 adopts key design elements of the 2019 ŠKODA FABIA road car. Additionally, the rally car gets important technical improvements. Key components of the current rally car have been optimised to improve the competitiveness of the new car even more. Compared to its predecessor, the engine performance has been further improved. The bodyshell has been strengthened and a new roll cage according to the FIA 2019 regulation has been fitted. The new steering has a more direct ratio, longer wheel travel offers better traction.

Reigning WRC 2 champion Jan Kopecký is looking forward to the upcoming third round of the Czech championship 2019, the Rally Český Krumlov (17/05–18/05/2019): “I am pleased that I have the chance to drive the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 at its world premiere again. With its predecessor, I could win four years ago the debut event at the Rally Šumava Klatovy 2015”, explains the Czech rally champion.

ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek says: “Besides our factory program, which also includes the upcoming Rally Portugal, we are working hard to deliver the first new cars to our customers in the second half of the year. Jan Kopecký was the key test driver when the new car was developed in its test program. Together with his teammate Kalle Rovanperä, he will give the updated ŠKODA FABIA R5 its debut in the FIA World Rally Championship at the upcoming Rally Portugal (30/05–02/06/2019), entered in WRC 2 Pro category.

### 2019 calendar of the Czech Rally Championship (MČR)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Kowax Valašská Rally ValMez	29/03–31/03/2019
Rally Šumava Klatovy	26/04–27/04/2019
<b>Rally Český Krumlov</b>	<b>17/05–18/05/2019</b>
Agrotec Rally Hustopeče	14/06–15/06/2019
Rally Bohemia Mladá Boleslav	12/07–14/07/2019
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	16/08–18/08/2019
SVK Rally Příbram	04/10–06/10/2019

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## 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
<b>Portugal</b>	<b>30/05–02/06/2019</b>
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 Rally Český Krumlov

At Rally Český Krumlov, third round of the Czech Rally Championship 2019, Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler will give the updated ŠKODA FABIA R5 its world premiere

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

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## ŠKODA at Rally Portugal

Jan Kopecký (right) and Kalle Rovanperä will debut the updated ŠKODA FABIA R5 in the FIA World Rally Championship at the upcoming Rally Portugal

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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 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 39,000 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.

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