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Rally Italia Sardegna: Double victory at WRC 2 Pro category by Kalle Rovanperä and Jan Kopecký

- › Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen and Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler gave ŠKODA Motorsport the second double victory of the 2019 WRC 2 Pro season
- › At Rally Italia Sardegna, eighth round of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship, the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo again proved speed and reliability
- › ŠKODA Motorsport now on top of the manufacturer's standings of the WRC 2 Pro championship while Kalle Rovanperä is leads the driver's classification
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: "I am proud and happy about the great teamwork of our crews bringing home this result and making us lead the championship."

Alghero, 16 June 2019 – Time to celebrate on the podium in the beautiful harbour of Alghero: Driving two ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) and teammates Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) scored a one-two in the WRC 2 Pro category at Rally Italia Sardegna, eighth round of the FIA World Rally Championship. Also on the four final stages of Sunday, the works teams delivered a tactically faultless performance and gave ŠKODA Motorsport the second double victory of the 2019 WRC 2 Pro season. Rovanperä even achieved a hat trick win on Sardinia after his recent wins in Chile and Portugal.

The last day of Rally Italia Sardegna brought the final decision on two stages at the coast north of the host town of Alghero, both had to be run twice. Although the landscape at the Sardinian coastline was simply breath-taking, both ŠKODA works crews wasted no time with any sightseeing. As they were leading the WRC 2 Pro category and also heading the field of the 37 entered R5 cars with a comfortable margin, it was all about finding the right speed in order to be on the safe side and not to lose concentration. And so the crews Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen and Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler did.

"This is one of the hardest events that I have done. There were really good things we learnt about our driving, our pace notes and also about the car. Thanks to the team – great job," said Rovanperä at the finish line of the last special stage. Kopecký added: "It's really great – congratulations to the team, because they again prepared a really perfect car."

ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek said: "I am proud and happy about the great teamwork of our crews bringing this result home and making us lead the championship. We are delighted that our new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo worked like a Swiss watch again. I would like to personally thank everybody at ŠKODA and ŠKODA Motorsport who made this success happen."

In the WRC 2 category for private teams, French ŠKODA privateers Pierre-Louis Loubet and Vincent Landais had lost the category lead on the last stage of Saturday when they suffered a puncture. But they fought back to the lead and won the category like at the previous Rally Portugal ahead of Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szepeaniak, who drove their first rally with a ŠKODA FABIA R5. At the end, the top four positions among the initially 37 R5 cars, which had started the rally, were conquered by ŠKODA crews.

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Final Result Rally Italia Sardegna (WRC 2 Pro)

1. Rovannerä/Halttunen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, 3:40:51.8 h
2. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +24.6 sec.
3. Østberg/Eriksen (NOR/NOR), Citroën C3 R5, +8:58.6 min.
4. Greensmith/Edmondson (GBR/GBR), Ford Fiesta R5, +1:17:11.0 h.

Current championship standings WRC 2 Pro/Drivers (after eight of 14 rounds)

1. Kalle Rovannerä (FIN), ŠKODA, 111 points
2. Mads Østberg (NOR), Citroën, 98 points
3. Gus Greensmith (GBR), Ford, 85 points
4. Lukasz Pieniazek (POL), Ford, 74 points
5. Jan Kopecký (CZE), ŠKODA, 36 points

Current championship standings WRC 2 Pro/Manufacturers (after eight of 14 rounds)

1. ŠKODA and Ford, each 159 points
3. Citroën, 98 points

Number of the day: 2

Kalle Rovannerä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) and Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) scored the second double victory of the 2019 WRC 2 Pro season for ŠKODA Motorsport.

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 Rally Italia Sardegna

ŠKODA works crew Kalle Rovanperä /Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) achieved their third win in a row in the WRC 2 Pro category

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Source: ŠKODAAUTO



ŠKODA at Rally Italia Sardegna

At Rally Italia Sardegna, eighth round of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship, ŠKODA's Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler secured a double victory in the WRC 2 Pro category for ŠKODA Motorsport

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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.