

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## ŠKODA Motorsport starts delivery of new rally car ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo

- › Handing over of the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo to customer teams has already begun  
Toni Gardemeister Services (TGS) received the first vehicle delivered to a customer team in Mladá Boleslav
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek: “The demand is high and we are working hard to deliver the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo as soon as possible!”

Mladá Boleslav, 18 July 2019 – Roughly 280 first generation ŠKODA FABIA R5 have been sold after the homologation on 1 April 2015. The new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo follows in the footsteps of its predecessor, which is the most successful rally car in its category so far. Toni Gardemeister, former works driver for ŠKODA Motorsport and team owner of TGS Worldwide, received the very first ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo delivered to a customer team.

The new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo already had a successful competition debut in the hands of factory teams Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen and Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler. ŠKODA Motorsport scored double victories in the WRC 2 Pro category at the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship rounds in Portugal and Sardinia. Now the new rally car from Mladá Boleslav is ready to be delivered to the customers of ŠKODA Motorsport, too.

ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek emphasizes: “The improved ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo is a follow-up of our successful R5 project. After an extended test program under challenging conditions we had a successful and promising start. During the first rallies, we encountered no technical issues at all and achieved two double victories in the WRC 2 Pro category of the World Rally Championship. Now we start to deliver the very reliable and competitive rally car to our customers.” Hrabánek adds: “We are now working hard to manage the high demand of the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo and to build as many cars as possible for our customers. Before we delivered the first customer cars, we made sure to establish a sustainable supply chain for the necessary spare parts.”

The updated ŠKODA FABIA R5 adopts key design elements of the 2019 ŠKODA FABIA road car such as the headlights and a shaped vehicle front, at the same time getting important technical improvements. The optimization has touched technical key components. The rally car features improved engine performance and reliability in comparison with the current version. The 1.6-litre turbo charged engine was upgraded improving power output and engine response.

### First ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo delivered to Team Toni Gardemeister Services (TGS)

Team Toni Gardemeister Services (TGS) was the first customer team to receive a ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo from Šárka Králová (responsible for customer program at ŠKODA Motorsport) in Mladá Boleslav. Toni Gardemeister is looking forward to the first event with the new car: “I had successful rallies with the ŠKODA FABIA S2000 and the ŠKODA FABIA R5, I am happy about the good cooperation with ŠKODA Motorsport and proud to be the first customer team to receive the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo!”



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Toni Gardemeister, TGS Worldwide and ŠKODA have been a successful combination already in the past. From 2002 to 2004, Gardemeister was competing as a factory driver for ŠKODA Motorsport in the FIA World Rally Championship with ŠKODA OCTAVIA WRC and ŠKODA FABIA WRC, respectively. In 2011, he drove a ŠKODA FABIA S2000, operated by his own team, Toni Gardemeister Services (TGS), in the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC). With a ŠKODA FABIA R5 from TGS, current ŠKODA works driver Kalle Rovanperä achieved his first successes in 2017.

The car will be competing with promising Finn Eerik Pietarinen at the wheel at the upcoming Rally Finland (01/08–04/08/2019), where he is nominated to score points in the WRC 2 Pro category by the ŠKODA Motorsport team.

## 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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## Media images:



### ŠKODA Motorsport delivers first ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo to customer team

Šárka Králová (responsible for customer program at ŠKODA Motorsport) handed the ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo to Toni Gardemeister, owner of TGS Worldwide

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at Motorsport at the FIA World Rally Championship

So far ŠKODA's Kalle Rovanperä and teammate Jan Kopecký secured two double wins in the WRC 2 Pro category of the FIA World Rally Championship with the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

## 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.

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## 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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