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#beatSKODAACES – ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge continues with next round Rally Australia

- › ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge attracted 3,900 gamers for the first round and will be continued with the virtual “Rally Australia” (20/05/–24/05/2020)
- › Created content on social media attracted from 20 to 30 April more than 2,5 million ŠKODA Motorsport fans all over the world
- › Hero video about the first round of ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge reached about two million rally fans
- › Anyone can compete behind the virtual wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo
- › DiRT Rally 2.0™ from Codemasters® will be again used as platform

Mladá Boleslav, 18 May 2020 – After its successful premiere the new ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge continues with virtual “Rally Australia” (20/05/–24/05/2020). Following the hashtag #beatSKODAACES fans from all around the world can again compete online behind the virtual wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo against rally aces.

The ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge was a success right from the start. Around 3,900 gamers, among them the FIA WRC2 Champion 2017, Pontus Tidemand (SWE), reigning European Rally Champion (ERC1) Chris Ingram (GBR), Slovakian Rally Champion Martin Kočí (SVK) and rising star Oliver Solberg (SWE) plus ŠKODA's e-game ambassador Petr Semerád (CZE), were competing against each other. Although the “real” rally aces had (so far) no chance against the e-sports specialists from all over the world, even the professionals had a lot of fun. The majority of the gamers came from France, followed by Czech Republic, Spain and Italy. Even players from the United States of America joined the competition. Created content on social media reached more than 2,5 million ŠKODA Motorsport fans all over the world.

The next event of the ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge is the virtual “Rally Australia” (20/05/–24/05/2020). Rally youngster Oliver Solberg (SWE) had bad luck during the first round of the ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge, when an internet failure caused “retirement”. He nevertheless proved his virtual speed and is now highly motivated. Mikołaj Marczyk (POL), who won the real-life Polish Rally Championship with a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, was spontaneously competing in the first round where he finished 10th overall and is already preparing for the virtual “Rally Australia”. Sébastien Bedoret, who finished 2019 third in the Belgium Rally Championship, will take the virtual challenge as well.

The online event will be again open for five days to all registered gamers around the world (link: <https://dirtrally2.com/clubs/club/295041>, club name: SKODA ECHALLENGE). The virtual platform for the competition is DiRT Rally 2.0, a video game developed and published by Codemasters for all major gaming consoles like PlayStation®4 and Xbox One®. DiRT Rally 2.0 also runs with Microsoft Windows® on a personal computer.

Advise for a virtual car setup

Like in the real world, competitors can get advice from the ŠKODA Motorsport engineers in order to prepare their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo for the virtual competition.



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Skipping the trouble of virtual testing, competitors can find the recommended setup on this link (<https://bit.ly/366RTcl>). The DiRT Rally 2.0 is a very realistic simulation, so the recommended settings are not that far from the real ones, although many values and setting ranges differ. But there are no limits to the own ideas of each competitor.

The ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge will be covered regularly under the communication hashtag #beatSKODAAACES by ŠKODA Motorsport's social network channels. Also, a video covering the course of the virtual rally will be produced and published after the event.

The calendar of the 2020 FIA World Rally Championship

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Monte-Carlo	23/01–26/01/2020
Sweden	13/02–16/02/2020
Mexico	12/03–15/03/2020
<i>(Argentina</i>	<i>23/04–26/04/2020*)</i>
<i>Portugal</i>	<i>21/05–24/05/2020 cancelled*</i>
<i>(Italy</i>	<i>04/06–07/06/2020*)</i>
<i>Kenya</i>	<i>16/07–19/07/2020 cancelled*</i>
Finland	06/08–09/08/2020
New Zealand	03/09–06/09/2020
Turkey	24/09–27/09/2020
Germany	15/10–18/10/2020
Great Britain	29/10–01/11/2020
Japan	19/11–22/11/2020

**Events postponed due to the fight against the spread of the coronavirus*

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Media images:



ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge

Virtual ŠKODA crews and their cars compete in the DiRT Rally 2.0 online video game with the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo against rally aces and each other

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge

The ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge offers a virtual competition in a realistic scenario, even the electronic setup of the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo can be adapted to the next round of the ŠKODA Motorsport eChallenge, the "Rally Australia" (20/05/-24/05/2020)

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

2019 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport so far. In 2019, the Czech brand introduced the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo. Factory crew Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen won both WRC2 Pro drivers' and co-drivers' championship of the FIA World Rally Championship while ŠKODA Motorsport took the WRC2 Pro manufacturers' title. ŠKODA customer crew Pierre-Louis Loubet/Vincent Landais won the WRC2 championship for private teams.

The success story of the Czech brand took place worldwide. The FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) was won by Chris Ingram/Ross Whittock (GBR/GBR), Filip Mareš/Jan Hloušek (CZE/CZE) conquered the FIA European Rally Championship/ERC1 Junior title. Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) became FIA African Rally Champions (ARC), Ricardo Triviño/Marc Martí (MEX/ESP) won the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM). On top of that, ŠKODA crews won numerous national championships. The ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation (FIA) on 1 April 2019. The Czech rally car is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport.

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 (WRC2) 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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- › is this year celebrating 125 years since the company was founded during the pioneering era of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established car manufacturers 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 1.24 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2019.
- › 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 and India mainly through group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs over 42,000 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.