

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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Celebrating 120 years of motorsport efforts in style: Nine ŠKODA crews at Bohemia Rally

- › As one of the events honouring its 120th year in motorsport, ŠKODA Motorsport fields three ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo at the fourth round of the SONAX Czech Rally Championship
- › A further six ŠKODA FABIA will fight for points in the colours of five ŠKODA dealer teams
- › Favourites for podium positions among the ŠKODA dealer supported teams include Filip Mareš/Radovan Bucha and Jan Černý/Petr Černohorský
- › Bohemia Rally (10-11 July 2021) with headquarters in ŠKODA's hometown Mladá Boleslav features 15 special stages covering 159 kilometres

Mladá Boleslav, 22. June 2021 – The SONAX Czech Rally Championship 2021 continues. Bohemia Rally (10-11 July), the season's fourth round takes place in the surroundings of Mladá Boleslav. Using its home ground to celebrate the 120th anniversary of activities in motorsport, ŠKODA increases its presence. Besides six crews representing ŠKODA dealer teams, a further three ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo will appear in ŠKODA Motorsport colours, backed by ŠKODA AUTO Czech Republic. As usual, the brand is preparing an attractive accompanying programme for both adults and children.

One of the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo will be in the hands of Czech Rally Champion Jan Kopecký, now also a ŠKODA Motorsport test driver, and navigator Jan Hloušek. Another car backed by the ŠKODA Motorsport team has been prepared for Dominik Stříteský. Aged 21, the young talent gets this opportunity after putting in very good performances during the first three championship events. Scoring fourth place twice and fifth once, he beat quite a few more experienced rivals in his first season behind the wheel of a Rally2 car. Although Stříteský started his motorsport career in karts already in 2009, his first rally season came as late as 2018. But he indeed climbed up the ranks very quickly to reach the absolute top of Czech championship's two-wheel-drive category already in 2020. This year, Stříteský and new co-driver Jiří Hovorka are part of the dealer team ACA ŠKODA Vančík Motorsport.

Last but not least, the third rally car to appear in ŠKODA Motorsport colours will be driven by 20 years old Marco Bulacia Wilkinson of Bolivia with Marcelo Der Ohannesian of Argentina in the navigator's seat. The South American crew normally are part of team Toksport WRT in the FIA World Rally Championship and are currently third in the WRC2 overall standings.

As usual, dealer teams have an ambition to fight for top ranks, too. This counts especially for Filip Mareš, who is going to drive an all-new limited production ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo Edition 120 for the Laureta Auto ŠKODA Team, and Jan Černý/Petr Černohorský of the Louda Auto ŠKODA Racing Team, a duo that has been gradually improving its performance since the season's start. Fielding crews Miroslav Jakeš/Petr Machů and Adam Březík/Ondřej Krajča, the Samohýl ŠKODA Team will be at full strength. The list of those, who are eager to win some more valuable championship points, also includes Věroslav Cvrček/Tomáš Prokorát (Kontakt ŠKODA Team) and David Tomek/Václav Kopáček (Autokomplex Menčík ŠKODA Rally Team).



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"As home event for ŠKODA, the Bohemia Rally is attended by thousands of its employees and their families every year. This is one of the reasons, why we have chosen it as one of the pillars of this year's celebrations of 120 years of our motorsport efforts," says Martina Zimmermann, responsible for marketing at ŠKODA AUTO Czech Republic. "Together with ŠKODA Motorsport we prepare quite an unusual arrangement, the objective being to make the number of factory-backed ŠKODA cars higher than usual. We are looking forward to their battles and duels, and we would like to invite all fans not only to the individual special stages, but also, for the first time this year, to our ŠKODA Rally Park in the centre of Mladá Boleslav. It is going to offer a lot of interesting activities and attractions to visitors of all ages

The Bohemia Rally 2021 is scheduled for the usual time of year at the beginning of the summer holidays, and the special stages will again take the crews to many locations in the Central Bohemia and Liberec regions. The event is known for its unique and technically demanding special stages, and the organising team has always been looking for new locations. This year they have again prepared enormously challenging stages in the Liberec Region, including the very first speed test. Sunday will see the field return to the Mladá Boleslav region, and the teams can already start looking forward to many all-new sections. As usual, the central point of the event is the town of Mladá Boleslav. Mladá Boleslav Town Hall is one of the organisers. Also as usual, the service zone will be set up at Hořkvice Airport, a large site near Mnichovo Hradiště.

Czech Rally Championship 2021 / Standings after round 3

1. Jan Kopecký/Jan Hloušek (Agrotec ŠKODA Rally Team/ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo)	158 points
2. Filip Mareš/Radovan Bucha (Laureta Auto ŠKODA Team/ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo)	134 points
3. Jan Černý/Petr Černohorský (Louda Auto ŠKODA Racing Team/ ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo)	102 points

SONAX Czech Rally Championship 2021

Valašská Rally ValMez	27/03 -28/03/2021
Rallye Šumava Klatovy	08/05 - 09/05/2021
Agrotec Petronas Rally Hustopeče	18/06 – 19/06/2021
Bohemia Rally	10/07 – 11/07/2021
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	27/08 - 29/08/2021
Invelt Rally Pačejov	01/10 - 03/10/2021
Rallye Český Krumlov	<i>date to be announced</i>

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Media photos:



ŠKODA Motorsport at Bohemia Rally

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been successful in motorsports since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include victory in the European Touring Car Championship 1981 as well as multiple titles in the FIA World Rally Championship's WRC2 category. Over the years, ŠKODA customer teams also won numerous national championships as well as titles in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the der Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC). ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Rallye Monte-Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

In 2009, the ŠKODA FABIA SUPER 2000 took the rally scene by storm. The following seasons, the all-wheel-drive rally car with a 2.0 litres normally aspirated engine won 50 national and international titles worldwide. It then wrote the most successful chapter in ŠKODA's motorsport history – until its successor surpassed it. The ŠKODA FABIA R5, a production-based rally car with four-wheel drive and 1.6 litres turbo engine, was homologated in its original form by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. Further developed to ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo (homologated on 1 April 2019), the high-tech car successfully continues the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. Due to changes in regulations, the car was re-named ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo in 2020.

The success story of the ŠKODA FABIA R5 took off in 2016, when Esapekka Lappi (FIN) won the WRC2 drivers' title of the FIA World Rally Championship. The following year, Pontus Tidemand (SWE) won the WRC2 drivers' category, while ŠKODA Motorsport took the WRC2 manufacturers' title. In 2018, ŠKODA factory driver Jan Kopecký was crowned WRC 2 drivers' champion. 2019 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport. Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) won the WRC2 Pro drivers' and co-drivers' title as well as substantially supporting ŠKODA Motorsport to win the WRC2 Pro manufacturers' title. In 2020 ŠKODA customer team Toksport WRT became Team Champion of the WRC2 category.

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- › is focusing on three priorities with its 'NEXT LEVEL ŠKODA' program for the future: expanding the model portfolio towards entry-level segments, exploring new markets for further growth in the volume segment and making tangible progress in sustainability and diversity.
- › currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the CITIGO® iV, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ and ENYAQ iV.
- › delivered over one million vehicles to customers around the world in 2020.
- › has belonged to the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. 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, 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 with a local partner.
- › employs approximately 42,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.