

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 1 of 4



Rally Estonia: ŠKODA driver Andreas Mikkelsen wants to strengthen lead in WRC2 category

- › Norwegians Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene compete the seventh round of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) at the wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo
- › Andreas Mikkelsen leads drivers' classification overall, ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT on top of teams' standings
- › Toksport WRT teammates Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) want to build on the experience they collected during recent WRC gravel rounds
- › At the high-speed gravel rally, ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak (POL/POL) chase third WRC3 category victory of the season
- › With twelve cars representing half of the entries of Rally2 vehicles, ŠKODA is once again the most popular brand in this group

Mladá Boleslav, 13 July 2021 – The first half of the FIA World Rally Championship 2021 had caused mixed emotions for Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR). After a strong start with category victory at Rallye Monte Carlo and a second place at Arctic Rally Finland behind the wheel of the Toksport WRT ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene (NOR) were hit by a string of mishaps. Nevertheless, they are still leading the WRC2 drivers' and co-drivers' classification. At the WRC's seventh round in Estonia, they are on a mission to strengthen this lead with another good result. Their teammates at ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT, Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG), currently hold third position in the WRC2 championship standings. Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak with their privately entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo are again among the favourites for WRC3 victory. Coming to Estonia, the Polish crew is runner-up in the category classification.

Andreas Mikkelsen always has a positive attitude, even when he apparently lost his luck during the recent rounds of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC). Immediately after Rally Italia Sardegna, where he rolled his ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo and could not score any championship points, he started a thorough preparation for the seventh WRC round in Estonia. He competed in two gravel rounds of the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) events in Poland and Latvia.

Andreas Mikkelsen: "These two events were a good warm-up for Rally Estonia with its fast and smooth gravel stages. I finished second overall in 2019, when the rally was held as a promotional event. I missed to drive the event last year when it was a round of the FIA World Rally Championship for the first time. I cannot wait to return to the fantastic gravel stages and the enthusiastic rally fans." During the first half of the WRC season, Mikkelsen's Toksport WRT teammate Marco Bulacia from Bolivia showed together with his co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian (ARG) a steady learning curve. Thanks to good results, the South-American ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew holds third position in the WRC2 overall standings.

With their privately entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak already won WRC3 at Rally Croatia and Vodafone Rally de Portugal. In Italy, they experienced a set-back due to an accident. The Polish crew's mission for Rally Estonia is clear: close the gap to the championship leader. But the competition is fierce, Kajetanowicz faces the



ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 2 of 4

opposition of a bunch of fast ŠKODA privateers. Among them are local heroes Raul Jeets/Andrus Toom (Team Sports Racing Technologies/SRT) as well as from Finland Mikko Heikkilä/Topi Luhtinen (TGS Worldwide) and Toksport WRT's Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen. Another driver definitely to watch is the current European Rally Championship leader, Alexey Lukyanuk. The "Russian rocket" and co-driver Yaroslav Fedorov compete in a Team Sports Racing Technologies/SRT ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. Among the 24 cars strong group of Rally2 cars, which are used mainly in categories WRC2 and WRC3, ŠKODA again is the most popular brand with twelve entries.

Rally Estonia, which is held on 24 special stages totalling 319.38 kilometres, kicks off with a show stage in Tartu on Thursday (15 July). The podium ceremony is scheduled for Sunday (18 July), 3:21 pm local.

Did you know,...

... that Rally Estonia is the biggest motorsport event in the Baltic countries and that Rallying is one of the most popular sports in Estonia?

...that Rally Estonia was held 2019 as a promotional event with the goal to get a slot on the FIA World Rally Championship calendar?

...that one year later, Rally Estonia for the first time was part of the FIA World Rally Championship?

...that Rally Estonia restarted WRC in 2020 following a pandemic-instigated break and calendar reshuffle?

Top-3 overall WRC2/Drivers (after 6 of 12 rounds)

1. **Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 68 points**
2. Mads Østberg (NOR), Citroën C3 Rally2, 66 points
3. **Marco Bulacia (BOL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 63 points**

Top-3 overall WRC2/Teams (after 6 of 12 rounds)

1. **Toksport WRT (ŠKODA), 125 points**
2. Movisport, 125 points
3. M-Sport Ford World Rally Team, 104 points

Top-3 overall WRC3/Drivers (after 6 of 12 rounds)

1. Yohan Rossel (FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 98 points
2. **Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 64 points**
3. Nicolas Ciamin (FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 57 points

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



Page 3 of 4

2021 FIA World Rally Championship

Rallye Monte-Carlo	21 – 24 January
Arctic Rally Finland powered by CapitalBox	25 – 28 February
Rally Croatia	22 – 25 April
Vodafone Rally Portugal	20 – 23 May
Rally Italia Sardegna	3 – 6 June
Safari Rally Kenya	24 – 27 June
Rally Estonia	15 – 18 July
Renties Ypres Rally Belgium	13 – 15 August
Rally Acropolis Greece	9 – 12 September
Rally Finland	30 September – 3 October
RallyRACC Rally de España	14 – 17 October
Rally Japan	11 – 14 November

Further information:

Zbyněk Straškraba, Communications Motorsport
P +420 605 293 168

zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

ŠKODA Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter

Media images:



ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Estonia

Norwegians Andreas Mikkelsen and Ola Fløene in the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo from ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT want to strengthen their WRC2 category lead

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Estonia

Youngster Marco Bulacia (BOL) and co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian (ARG) compete in a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 4 of 4



ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Estonia

Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) from Poland aim for another victory in WRC3 category

[Download](#)

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.

ŠKODA AUTO

- › is focusing on three priorities with the "NEXT LEVEL ŠKODA" program for the future: expanding the model portfolio in the direction of entry-level segments, opening up new markets for further growth in the volume segment, and making concrete 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 more than one million vehicles to customers around the world in 2020.
- › is part of Volkswagen Group since 30 years. 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 with a local partner.
- › employs approximately 42,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.