

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## RallyRACC Rally de España: ŠKODA privateers fight for championship points in WRC2 and WRC3

- › At the 2021 FIA World Rally Championship's penultimate round, Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) aim for top position in WRC2 category
- › WRC2 Drivers' classification leader Andreas Mikkelsen of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT takes a planned break and will return for the WRC finale in Italy
- › With support from ŠKODA Motorsport, 21 years old Czech Dominik Střiteský and co-driver Jiří Hovorka face their WRC3 debut in a Toksport WRT run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo
- › Private ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak from Poland want to conquer the lead in the WRC3 category

Mladá Boleslav, 13 October 2021 – As penultimate round of the 2021 FIA World Rally Championship, RallyRACC Rally de España (14 – 17 October 2021) takes the teams to Catalonia. As planned, WRC2 Drivers' classification leader Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT skips the Spanish event. On the other hand, his Bolivian teammate Marco Bulacia (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) will be after more experience on tarmac roads and more WRC2 championship points. Driving a privately entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak (POL/POL) chase the lead in WRC3. Entered into the same category, 21 years old Czech Dominik Střiteský and co-driver Jiří Hovorka (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) face their very first FIA World Rally Championship event as part of team Toksport WRT.

For Andreas Mikkelsen, the 2021 season could be his most successful in terms of titles. In the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the Norwegian of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT enjoys a dominant overall lead. Right now, Mikkelsen is also leading the WRC2 category of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC). Because he can bring only six results from maximum seven events into his final score, the Norwegian choose to skip the penultimate of the twelve WRC rounds. Thus, Mikkelsen's young teammate Marco Bulacia will fly the Toksport WRT flag in WRC2. After a string of good results, the Bolivian currently lies third in the category points standings. "After the gravel events, I am now looking forward to the all-tarmac Spanish round of the championship. The test sessions on asphalt and the Czech Championship round Rally Bohemia gave me a lot of confidence in my ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. I am for sure aiming for another good result," says Bulacia, who is joined as usual by co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian from Argentina.

As well at Rally Bohemia in July, 21 years old Czech talent Dominik Střiteský delivered a strong performance. Together with co-driver Jiří Hovorka, he conquered second place overall at the wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. A result, which earned him ŠKODA Motorsport support for his WRC debut in Spain. "I am happy that I can compete on top level for the first time thanks to ŠKODA Motorsport. For me, it's all about learning how rallying in the WRC works," says Střiteský.

His benchmark in the WRC3 category will probably be the private ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak from Poland. Currently second overall in WRC3, they chase the category lead on the asphalt stages of Catalonia. Other private ŠKODA crews to watch

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are the 2019 FIA European Rally Champions Chris Ingram/Ross Whittock (GBR/GBR), local heroes Pepe López/Borja Odriozola of Rallye Team Spain and newly crowned Finnish Champions Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hämäläinen. They showed their speed also by winning the WRC3 category at the recent Rally Finland.

The RallyRACC Rally de España offers 17 special stages totalling more than 280 kilometres mostly on winding and smooth tarmac roads. The Friday leg will run over six special stages of around 112 kilometres. The longest day of the event will be the Saturday with seven stages covering more than 117 kilometres. Sunday will bring the final decision with four stages, before the winner will reach the podium at Salou around 1:34 pm local time.

## Did you know, that...

...the event today known as RallyRACC Rally de España was first run in 1957, became a round of the European Rally Championship (ERC) in 1975 and in 1991 for the first time was part of the World Rally Championship (WRC)?

...the Spanish WRC round until 2019 was the only championship event with a mix of gravel and asphalt stages? This year, it will be run as a full tarmac event.

...the starting ceremony on Thursday evening will take place at the beautiful waterfront of Salou in the south of Catalonia's capital Barcelona?

...the service park is hosted by the PortAventura World Theme Park, featuring the spectacular Dragon Khan Roller Coaster with eight loops and a top speed of more than 110 kph?

## Top-3 overall WRC2/Drivers (before RallyRACC Rally de España)

1. **Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 126 points**
2. Mads Østberg (NOR), Citroën C3 Rally2, 118 points
3. **Marco Bulacia (BOL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 104 points**

## Top-3 overall WRC2/Teams (before RallyRACC Rally de España)

1. **Toksport WRT (ŠKODA), 211 points**
2. Movisport, 162 points
3. M-Sport Ford World Rally Team, 146 points

## Top-3 overall WRC3/Drivers (before RallyRACC Rally de España)

1. Yohan Rossel (FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 127 points
2. **Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 112 points**
3. **Emil Lindholm (FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 73 points**

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## 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
Acropolis Rally Greece	9 – 12 September
Rally Finland	1 – 3 October
<b>RallyRACC Rally de España</b>	<b>14 – 17 October</b>
FORUM8 ACI Rally Monza (Italy)	19 – 21 November

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#### ŠKODA Motorsport at RallyRACC Rally de España

Driving a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT, Marco Bulacia (BOL) and co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian (ARG) fight for WRC2 championship points

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#### ŠKODA Motorsport at RallyRACC Rally de España

Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) from Poland want to conquer the overall lead in the WRC3 category

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## 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 successfully steering through the new decade with the NEXT LEVEL – ŠKODA STRATEGY 2030.
- › aims to be one of the five best-selling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
- › is emerging as the leading European brand in India, Russia and North Africa.
- › currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ, ENYAQ iV and KUSHAQ.
- › delivered over one million vehicles to customers around the world in 2020.
- › has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- › independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- › employs more than 43,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.