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ACI Rally Monza: New WRC2 Champion* Andreas Mikkelsen leads ŠKODA squad into “finale grande”

- › Andreas Mikkelsen of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT comes as the 2021 WRC2 Drivers' Champion* to the FIA World Rally Championship's final round
- › Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) aim for top position in WRC2 category at the Autodromo Nazionale di Monza based event
- › Private ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak from Poland fights for the title in the WRC3 category
- › Team Toksport WRT wants to take the WRC2 Championship for Teams

Mladá Boleslav, 16 November 2021 – For the second time in a row, the famous Formula One circuit of Monza in Italy hosts the finale of the FIA World Rally Championship. ACI Rally Monza (19–21 November) welcomes Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT as prematurely crowned WRC2 Drivers' Champion. Thus, the Norwegian can fully concentrate on saving the WRC2 Teams' Championship for Toksport WRT. Also driving a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak (POL/POL) fight for the WRC3 category title.

For ŠKODA driver Andreas Mikkelsen, the 2021 season was his most successful in terms of titles. The 32 years old Norwegian prematurely won the WRC2 Drivers' category of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) as well as the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC). At the season finishing ACI Rally Monza, his main goal is to help Toksport WRT to win the WRC2 Championship for Teams. His new co-driver for this event will be Briton Phil Hall. “Last year at this event, I won the WRC3 category on my return to the World Rally Championship with ŠKODA,” Mikkelsen says ahead of the WRC's Italian “grande finale”.

Mikkelsen's young teammate Marco Bulacia will join the fight for the team's title. Strong competition for both Toksport WRT crews will come from Nicolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov. Driving a privately entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, the Russian crew proved their speed on tarmac stages with a second place in WRC2 at the recent RallyRACC Rally de España.

In the WRC3 category the private ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak from Poland has chances to win the title. Coming to Monza, Kajetanowicz leads the overall classification with the same points total as Frenchman Yohan Rossel. The 2019 FIA European Rally Champions Chris Ingram/Ross Whittock (GBR/GBR) target a top WRC3 result with their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo as well. With a total of 28 entries at ACI Rally Monza, ŠKODA is once again the most popular brand in the class of Rally2 cars.

ACI Rally Monza features 16 special stages totalling 245.46 kilometres. The rally kicks off on Friday (19 November) with a first loop of four stages in the mountains to the north of Monza, before it returns to the Autodromo Nazionale di Monza for three more stages. On Saturday (20 November), the rally heads north for another four stages on country roads, the afternoon sees two tests on the Monza circuit.

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On Sunday (21 November), the remaining three stages in Monza will be decisive. The winner will be celebrated at 14h00 on the podium usually used for the Formula One race.

** subject to confirmation of the results by the FIA*

Did you know, that...

...Rally Monza was organized for the first time in 1978 and until 1984 featured only stages on mixed surfaces on paved tracks and dirt roads in the circuit's inner areas?

...the name of the rally was changed in 2003 to "Monza Rally Show"?

...ACI Rally Monza only for the second time is counting as a round towards the FIA World Rally Championship?

...that the country with Rally Italia Sardegna is hosting two rounds of the FIA World Rally Championship for the second year in a row?

Top-3 overall WRC2/Drivers (before ACI Rally Monza)

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

Top-3 overall WRC2/Teams (before ACI Rally Monza)

1. **Toksport WRT (ŠKODA), 211 points**
2. **Movisport, 202 points**
3. **M-Sport Ford World Rally Team, 146 points**

Top-3 overall WRC3/Drivers (before ACI Rally Monza)

1. **Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 127 points**
2. **Yohan Rossel (FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 127 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
Secto Automotive Rally Finland	1 – 3 October
RallyRACC Rally de España	14 – 17 October
ACI Rally Monza (Italy)	19 – 21 November

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ŠKODA Motorsport at ACI Rally Monza

Norwegian Andreas Mikkelsen, supported by British co-driver Phil Hall, can fully enjoy the tarmac event – he has already secured the WRC2 Drivers' title at the wheel of a Toksport WRT run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at ACI Rally Monza

Driving a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT, Marco Bulacia (BOL) and co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian (ARG) want to finish the season with another good result.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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ŠKODA Motorsport at ACI Rally Monza

Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) from Poland want to win the title in the WRC3 category for private drivers.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at ACI Rally Monza

Russian crew Nicolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrow, sharing a privately entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, are among the favourites for victory in the WRC2 category.

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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 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.

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- › 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.