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ŠKODA FABIA R5/ Rally2/ Rally2 evo: Successful in the hands of factory drivers and privateers alike

- › Production based rally car replaces ŠKODA FABIA SUPER 2000 in 2015
- › All-wheel drive and 1.6 litres turbo engine producing roughly 214 kW (290 PS)
- › Common parts and road car derived components keep costs low for development, competition and rebuilding
- › Until 2021 season's end, more than 1,500 victories collected; also titles in world, European and national championships all over the planet

Mladá Boleslav, 20 December 2021 – Bearing the name R5, a completely new vehicle class was introduced for global rallying in 2012. It's still valid today, albeit under the name Rally2. Based on the FABIA series production model, ŠKODA Motorsport developed a completely new rally car, which over time became the most successful in the category. In addition to fielding its own factory drivers, ŠKODA Motorsport from the very beginning also concentrated on supporting customer teams.

In 2012, a new vehicle category in global rallying replaced the SUPER 2000 class, in which ŠKODA had celebrated numerous successes with the FABIA SUPER 2000. Following the regulations for the new R5 category, today known as Rally2, ŠKODA Motorsport developed a successor model based on the third generation ŠKODA FABIA road car, which was presented in 2014.

The strategy behind the R5 regulations was to bring the rally cars closer to their production counterparts again as well as to reduce the costs for development, competition and revisions. The foundation were completely new technical regulations, which still exist today. Instead of the two-litre naturally aspirated engine of the SUPER 2000 class, which was designed purely as a racing engine, a near standard 1.6-litre turbo powerplant became common for R5 class cars. This engine could be derived from any production model. ŠKODA opted for the four-cylinder of the SUPERB variant sold in China. In accordance with the class limit, the displacement was reduced to 1,620 cubic centimetres. To level out the engine performance of different R5 models, a 32 millimetres FIA approved air restrictor was stipulated. The engine of the ŠKODA FABIA's rally variant has been further developed in several stages since 2015. In its current version, it produces around 214 kW (290 hp) with a maximum torque of 425 Newton metres.

In the R5/Rally2 class, most of the components of the all-wheel drive are common. As well as all its competitors, the rally going ŠKODA FABIA's drivetrain features a gearbox with five forward gears and no centre differential. The sequential shift gearbox is specially developed for racing. Other technical components, on the other hand, must be based on freely available and therefore comparatively low-cost production parts, including for example the brake system, the turbocharger and the intercooler.

However, the manufacturers were given room for improvement. ŠKODA Motorsport used this freedom in 2019 to further develop its bestseller into the ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo. The progress concerned, among other areas, the engine, the chassis, the differentials front and rear as well as the intervals for rebuilding. Following a change in nomenclature by the FIA, the ŠKODA FABIA R5

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evo also was renamed ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. In 2020 and again in 2021, ŠKODA Motorsport introduced further improvement steps for its successful rally car.

The ŠKODA FABIA R5, which made its world championship debut in Portugal in spring 2015, continued the success story of its predecessor. ŠKODA Motorsport factory drivers won the WRC2 and WRC2 Pro categories of the FIA World Rally Championship in 2016 (Esapekka Lappi/FIN), 2017 (Pontus Tidemand/SWE), 2018 (Jan Kopecký/CZE) and 2019 (Kalle Rovanperä/FIN).

Purposefully designed as a rally car for customer sport from the very beginning, ŠKODA FABIA R5, ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 and ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo also became the most successful and popular vehicle of the category in the hands of private drivers and teams. ŠKODA Motorsport customers have won around 1,500 rallies since 2015, thus securing numerous titles in categories WRC2 and WRC3 of the FIA World Rally Championship, among others. They have also won the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR), the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC) and more than 100 national championships. In the recently concluded WRC season, Norwegian Andreas Mikkelsen of ŠKODA Motorsport supported Team Toksport became WRC2 World Champion and also took the title as European Rally Champion. In addition, around two dozen national and regional championships again went to drivers and teams putting their trust in the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.

The production-based rally vehicle from Mladá Boleslav demonstrated impressive versatility right from the start. At the wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA R5/Rally2/Rally2 evo, drivers celebrated victories in snow-covered Sweden, on the rock-strewn tracks of South America, Australia and Africa, on the soft and extremely fast gravel stages in Finland as well as on the asphalt roads of Italy, Spain and Lebanon.

By the end of 2021, ŠKODA Motorsport had sold more than 440 units of the ŠKODA FABIA in R5, Rally2 and Rally2 evo variant. Twelve of these were very special examples: a limited edition series with extended equipment launched in spring 2021 to mark the jubilee “120 years of ŠKODA in motorsport”. In addition to the standard equipment, the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo Edition 120 included a set of green painted magnesium wheels and a full pod of extra LED lights plus LED corner lights. An additional full package of extra internal accessories based on factory crews experience was part of the standard configuration. This included storage bags or nets for personal belongings, tools, spare parts or additional equipment. More comfort improving accessories like camel bags for drinking water, bottles for car liquids, belts, holders and much more completed the package of extras. The limited edition equipment also brought a unique Edition 120 welcome screen for both monitors in the cockpit, a special car livery plus a plaque identifying the production number. A certificate of authenticity, useful ŠKODA merchandise like a backpack and an exclusive ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo model car (1:18 scale) with identical looks rounded up the special offer.

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ŠKODA FABIA R5

After the FIA World Championship debut in Portugal early in 2015, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 continued the success story of its predecessor. ŠKODA Motorsport factory drivers won the WRC2/WRC2 Pro category in 2016 (Esapekka Lappi/FIN), 2017 (Pontus Tidemand/SWE), 2018 (Jan Kopecký/CZE) and 2019 (Kalle Rovanperä/FIN)

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Quelle: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA FABIA R5

In 2021, Andreas Mikkelsen won the WRC2 Drivers' classification of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) and also the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) overall. In both series, the Norwegian drove a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo of team Toksport WRT

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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

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crowned WRC 2 drivers' champion. In 2019, 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.
- › 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.