



SEASONS GREETINGS

by Michal Hrabánek, Head of ŠKODA Motorsport

The year is coming to an end. I'm deeply impressed by how our customer teams navigated another difficult season. Together, we managed to keep our business up and running. Václav Trkola, Head of Customer Technical Support at ŠKODA Motorsport, talks in an interview in this Newsletter about the tremendous effort we have put into giving our customer teams all the support they deserve.

Congratulations to all ŠKODA drivers who won rallies and championships this season. With Andreas Mikkelsen at the wheel, the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo drove to the most prestigious

title possible with a Rally2 car – the WRC2 Drivers' Championship. Our bestseller again proved its versatility, taking drivers and teams to championships under conditions as varied as the rough gravel roads of South America, Australia and Portugal, the snowy and icy stages in Finland and the smooth asphalt of Lebanon. I'm very proud of each title.

2021 also marked ŠKODA's 120th year in motorsport. We celebrated this important anniversary with a host of activities; the back page of this newsletter gives an overview. For those of you who have not yet had the chance, I highly recommend visiting the ŠKODA mu-

seum here in Mladá Boleslav where there is an impressive exhibition on this jubilee.

The 2022 season is just around the corner; we have already started preparations. Rest assured that we will be enhancing the support for our customer teams. The Rallye Monte-Carlo gets underway on 20 January. I'm really looking forward to seeing the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo back on these iconic stages.

For now, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2022. I hope to meet you all again next season somewhere stage-side or in the service park.



Winter is coming – the 2022 season of the FIA World Rally Championship kicks off with the Rallye Monte-Carlo

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“THE BEST POSSIBLE PERFORMANCE”

Václav Trkola, Head of Customer Technical Support at ŠKODA Motorsport, speaks about the services offered by his department, the importance of customer feedback and the coming season.

W hat is the scope of your work, and what exactly are you in charge of?

I am responsible for Customer Technical Support as part of ŠKODA Motorsport's Customer Programme. Alongside my colleagues, my job is to provide general technical support to all our customers around the world. We help them run their cars and boost their performance, and they appreciate this very much.

Which technical support or services do you currently offer to customer teams?

In cooperation with engineers, technicians and mechanics, we provide remote as well as event support. We also offer revisions and repairs of main parts on ŠKODA Motorsport premises or in cooperation with our service partners. We also keep customers up to date on all technical news via technical bulletins, publish recommended set-ups for selected rallies and deal with any technical problems.

Has there been any news in the field of technical support this year?

One of the most significant new developments was the spare parts truck, which



Václav Trkola, Head of Customer Technical Support at ŠKODA Motorsport

made its debut during Rally Croatia in April 2021. This truck is currently available to customers at selected WRC or ERC events, allowing them to buy spare parts at the location. Customers might not always have all the spare parts to hand. So, if they need to buy any, they can find them on this truck, helping them to continue the rally.

What can teams find in this spare parts truck?

The truck is equipped with the parts that most often need replacing, depending on

the conditions of the event. These parts include bumpers, fenders, chassis parts, engine compartment parts and transmissions. The truck contains 70 to 80 per cent of the car parts. Obviously, we don't carry bodysells because it's not allowed to change these during a rally.

How does remote technical support work?

Customers mostly communicate with us via standard channels like email or phone, but some even get in touch using messengers like WhatsApp. Besides everyday communication on topics related to car handling and maintenance, we offer remote technical support to a given event on prior request. A dedicated technician will then be on hand to help the team remotely with data analysis, car setup, answer technical questions and offer specific advice. In other cases, we try to help customers with issues during rallies. They contact us, and if we can't help directly, we try to locate the nearest technician to deal with the problem on-site.

What services do customers have access to at ŠKODA Motorsport?

We offer engine, transmission and damper revisions and repairs. Teams can book





ŠKODA Motorsport sends a truck fully loaded with spare parts to selected international rallies

a slot in our workshop based on our capacities and their racing schedule. Then they send us just the engine, transmission or dampers and we start working on them immediately. If there is a clash with the customer's event, we can lease an engine or gearbox for the rebuild period. For the gearbox, we also offer training courses for the teams, where we teach them how to maintain gearboxes on their own. This service was most popular at the beginning of our customer programme. Nowadays, most customers know our car and procedures well.

What do engineers help customers with during a rally?

We provide two levels of support at events. The first level of support, which is free of charge, consists of general area support by our staff at WRC and ERC competitions. This service is also available during selected rounds of national championships. The second form of support is tailored to a specific team, which must be ordered in advance because our capacities are limited.

During which rallies are the engineers busiest?

It usually depends on the difficulty of the competition and the conditions. One of the toughest events is Safari Rally Kenya, where we did not take part this season. However, generally, it is possible to say, that the WRC rounds are probably the

most demanding. Engineers usually spend up to seven days at the event. They start with the pre-event tests, then the team of ŠKODA Motorsport engineers supports



ŠKODA Motorsport engineers support customer teams with knowledge and data

customer teams with knowledge and data for the scrutineering and then the engineer is available during the actual rally.

Is customer feedback considered in the development of the car?

Yes, when we receive feedback or input from a customer team, the comments are forwarded to the technical group and then evaluated. Any suggestions are incorporated when a potential performance or durability benefit is identified. We have already received several such comments that have proved to be beneficial.

What was the level of demand for technical support services during 2021 compared to previous years?

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, we were quite overwhelmed by customer requests that we were, unfortunately, unable to meet all of them. At the same time, all our car engineers, engine technicians and car technicians were working flat out.

Are you planning anything new for 2022?

Our car engineers will be increasing their capacity in 2022. As I mentioned, during the 2021 season we reached the limit of our capacities. For this reason, next year we will be adding three new members to our team of car engineers.



Close to the teams – the ŠKODA Motorsport customer support in a service park

WRC2: NORWEGIAN DUEL

The WRC2 Drivers' Championship culminated in a fight between two Norwegians – Andreas Mikkelsen of the Toksport WRT team supported by ŠKODA Motorsport and Citroën driver Mads Ostberg. Mikkelsen opened the season by winning the category at Rallye Monte-Carlo and added victories at Rally Estonia and Acropolis Rally Greece to his tally.

An important WRC2 rule was introduced in the second half of 2021: Each driver could score points at seven events; the six best results were taken into account. While Ostberg chose the season's penultimate round, RallyRACC - Rally de España, as his seventh round, Mikkelsen skipped the Spanish event and instead counted on the finale at Rally Monza.



Competing in two events at the wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Nikolay Gryazin helped Movisport to win the WRC2 Teams' Championship



Entered by ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT, 21 years old Marco Bulacia finished his first WRC2 season fourth overall

Once the dust had settled in Salou, Ostberg and Mikkelsen were equal on points. Due to the greater number of victories (3:1), Mikkelsen was prematurely crowned WRC2 Drivers' Champion, whatever the outcome of Rally Monza would be. "The season went perfectly, my ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo was reliable all the way," Mikkelsen commented after watching the final Spanish stage on television from the Toksport WRT service compound. But another title had to be decided at

the season's finale in Monza. The fight for the WRC2 Teams' Championship was on between Toksport WRT (with Mikkelsen and Bolivian youngster Marco Bulacia) and Movisport, which fielded two ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evos for Russian Nikolay Gryazin and local hero Enrico Brazzoli. When the final flag of the 2021 season fell on Monza's famous Formula One track, Movisport had collected enough points to celebrate the teams' title – with a margin of just eleven points.



Final standings WRC2 Drivers' Championship

- 1. Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR),** ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 149 points
- 2. Mads Østberg (NOR),** Citroën C3 Rally2, 126 points
- 3. Jari Huttunen (FIN),** Ford Fiesta Rally2, 107 points
- 4. Marco Bulacia (BOL),** ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 107 points
- 5. Teemu Suninen (FIN),** Ford Fiesta Rally2, 93 points

At Acropolis Rally Greece, Andreas Mikkelsen celebrated one of three category wins on his way to WRC2 Drivers' Champion

Rally Croatia was among the three WRC3 wins for Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo)



WRC3: CLOSE, BUT NO CIGAR

The 2021 FIA World Rally Championship started its final test, the Power Stage of ACI Rally Monza. And the WRC3 championship still was wide open. With only 14.62 kilometres to go, the season-long fight between ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo driver Kajetan Kajetanowicz from Poland and Frenchman Yohan Rossel culminated in a simple constellation: whoever would be faster over the Power Stage would take the WRC3 crown.

15 minutes later, Rossel was the new WRC3 Champion. Reaching the last finish of the year 4.7 seconds faster than Kajetanowicz, the Citroën driver topped the final overall standings by three points. “Kajto” stated: “This has been our best season since we started competing among the fastest rally crews in the world. Although the main goal was very close, I can return to Poland with my head held high.” On his way to the runner-up position in the WRC3, Kajetanowicz enjoyed three podium finishes. Over the season, ŠKODA Motorsport customer teams celebrated category wins at seven WRC rounds. The top 10 of the WRC3 final standings lists five more ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo drivers: Emil Lindholm (FIN), Chris Ingram (GBR), Pepe López (ESP), Mikko Heikkilä (FIN) and Fabrizio Zaldivar (PRY). During most of the WRC rounds, the rally car from Mladá Boleslav made up for more than half of the field in RC2 class.

Locals Emil Lindholm/Reeta Hamalainen drove a TGS Worldwide ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to WRC3 victory at Secto Rally Finland

WRC3 victories of ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo drivers

Arctic Rally Finland:	Teemu Asunmaa (FIN/TGS Worldwide)
Rally Croatia:	Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL/Team Lotos)
Rally Portugal:	Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL/Team Lotos)
Rally Estonia:	Alexey Lukyanuk (RAF/Sports Racing Technologies)
Acropolis Rally Greece:	Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL/Team Lotos)
Secto Rally Finland:	Emil Lindholm (FIN/Toksport WRT)
RallyRACC Rally de Espana:	Emil Lindholm (FIN/Toksport WRT)





Andreas Mikkelsen drove a Toksport WRT run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to the overall title of the FIA European Rally Championship

ERC: TWO TITLES FOR ŠKODA DRIVERS

The 2021 season of the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) was a great success for ŠKODA Motorsport. Norwegian Andreas Mikkelsen became the fifth ŠKODA FABIA driver to win the overall title; Juho Hänninen (ŠKODA FABIA S2000) was the first in 2012. Jan Kopecký (2013) from the Czech



Sara Fernandez, sharing the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo cockpit with Efrén Llarena, is the first-ever female European Co-Drivers' Champion

Republic and Esapekka Lappi (2014) from Finland followed with the same ŠKODA model. Chris Ingram from England in 2019 and now Mikkelsen used the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to win the European title. Over the season Mikkelsen shared the cockpit of the Toksport WRT run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo with three different co-drivers – fellow Norwegian Ola Floene, Jonas Andersson from Sweden and the Brit Elliott Edmondson. The ERC co-drivers' title may have gone to another team, but it stayed in the ŠKODA family. Sara Fernández called the notes for Efrén Llarena onboard a Rallye Team Spain ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. While Llarena finished runner-up in the overall drivers' rankings, Sara Fernández made history as the first-ever female ERC Co-drivers' Champion. Third place overall also went to a driver of a ŠKODA Motorsport customer team, to Mikołaj

Final standings FIA European Rally Championship, Drivers

- 1. Andreas Mikkelsen**
(NOR, ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Toksport WRT)
- 2. Efrén Llarena**
(ESP, ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Rallye Team Spain)
- 3. Mikołaj Marczyk**
(POL, ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Orlen Team)

Marczyk of Orlen Team from Poland. Mikkelsen scored four podium results, winning the ERC rounds Azores Rally and Rally Serras de Fafe e Felgueiras, both in Portugal. Victory at the Barum Czech Rally Zlín went to former European Champion Jan Kopecký of the Agrotec ŠKODA Rally Team. With this win on home ground, ŠKODA Motorsport test driver Kopecký laid the foundation for becoming Czech Rally Champion for a record eighth time.

TITLES FOR ŠKODA DRIVERS IN 2021

International

FIA World Rally Championship
WRC2 Drivers: Andreas Mikkelsen



FIA European Rally
Championship
Overall: Andreas Mikkelsen



FIA European Rally Championship
Co-Drivers: Sara Fernández



FIA European Rallycross Championship
RX1: Andreas Bakkerud

TITLES FOR ŠKODA DRIVERS IN 2021

National



Argentina
Alejandro Cancio



Australia
John O'Dowd



Austria
Simon Wagner



Belgium
Adrian Fernémont



Bolivia
Roberto Saba



Bulgaria
Miroslav Angelov



Simon Wagner
Austria



Adrian
Fernémont
Belgium



Jan Kopecký
Czech Republic



Emil
Lindholm
Finland



Czech Republic
Jan Kopecký



Finland
Emil Lindholm



France
Réunion:
Thierry Law-Long



Giandomenico Basso
Italy



Italy Overall
Giandomenico Basso
Gravel:
Paolo Andreucci
Tarmac:
Stefano Albertini

TITLES FOR ŠKODA DRIVERS IN 2021

National



Mikołaj Marczyk
Poland



Lebanon
Roger Feghali



Luxembourg
Steve Fernandes



Poland
Mikołaj Marczyk



Portugal
Overall:
Riccardo Teodósio
Madeira:
Miguel Nunes



Romania
Simone Tempestini



Russia
Igor Bulantsev



Slovakia
Grzegorz Grzyb



Spain
José Antonio Suárez



Switzerland
Mike Coppens



Turkey
Burak Cukurova



Riccardo Teodósio
Portugal



José Antonio Suárez
Spain

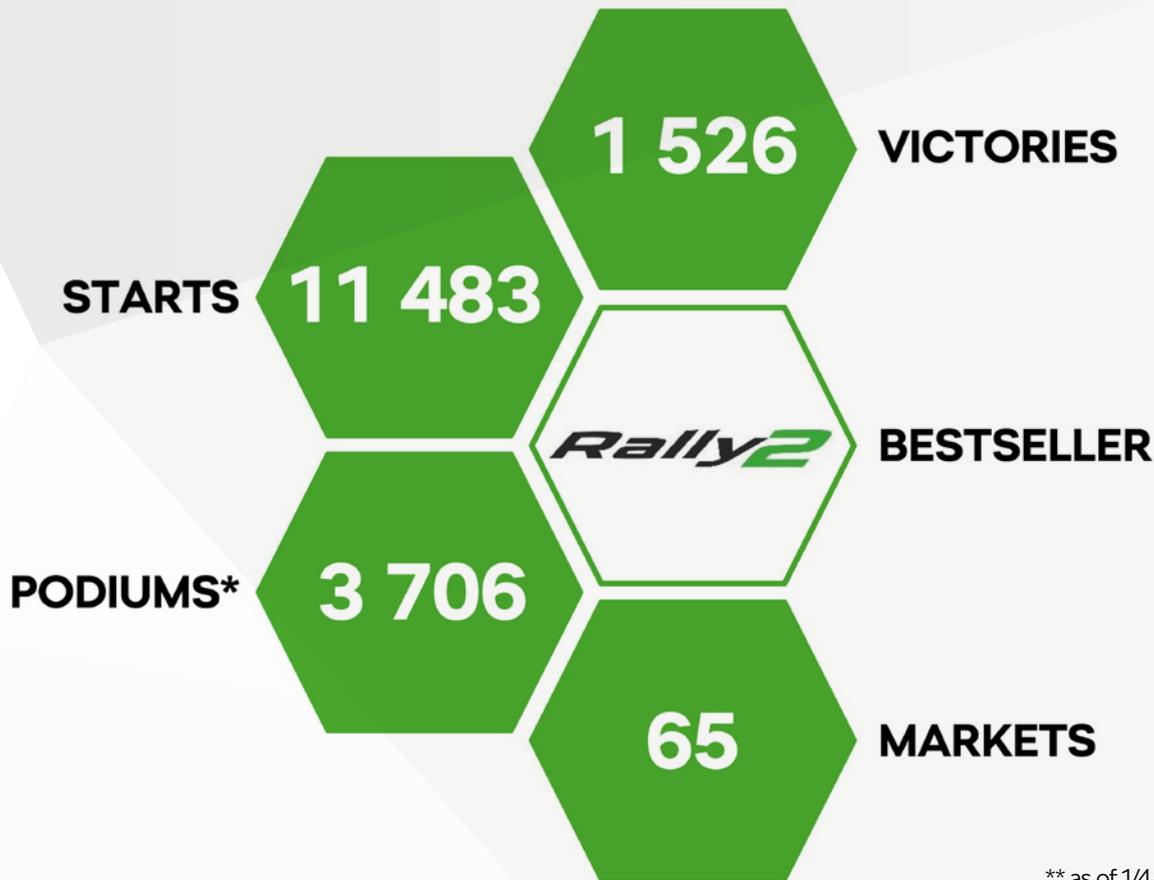


Miguel Nunes
Madeira



Burak Cukurova
Turkey

FACTS ABOUT THE ŠKODA FABIA RALLY2 AND ŠKODA FABIA RALLY2 EVO**



* 1st to 3rd place
** as of 1/4/2015 to 13/12/2021

OTHER RECENT RALLY RESULTS



MERC: Oman Rally Sohar International was the last round of the FIA Middle East Rally Championship (MERC). Sharing a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, locals Abdullah Al-Rawahi and co-driver Ata Al-Hmoud won the event.



Chile: Two victories for Jorge Martinez Fontena/Alberto Alvarez (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2) in the Chilean Championship.

They won Gran Premio Osorno and Rally Casablanca. Emilio Fernández/Juan Manuel Sanhueza in another ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 finished both rallies third overall.



France: At the wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo and co-driven by Yannick Roche, Nicolas Ciamin finished first at Rallye du Var, round eight of the French Tarmac Championship.



Greece: ŠKODA crew Ioannis Papadimitriou/Nikolaos Petropoulos won the Olimpiako Rally, the fifth round of the overall Greek Championship. The tarmac-only round Rally Paladio was won by Eleftherios Aligizakis and co-driver Mihalīs Chatzidakis (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2).



Spain: Two victories for ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews in the Spanish Superchampionship: Rallye Team Spain's Efrén Llarena/Sara Fernández won the national classification at European Championship round Rally Islas Canarias. José Antonio Suárez/Pin Alberto Iglesias of team Recalvi finished first at Rallyshow Comunidad de Madrid-RACE.



With support from ŠKODA AUTO, seven dealer teams ran a total of eight ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo in the Czech Rally Championship



BIRTHDAY PRESENTS GALORE

The 2021 season marked the 120th year of ŠKODA in motorsport – a milestone not many brands have reached. ŠKODA Motorsport celebrated this jubilee with a host of activities for fans and customers, ranging from a dedicated exhibition at the company's museum to a limited-edition version of the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.

The Czech Rally Championship plays an important role for ŠKODA; during the 2021 season, ŠKODA AUTO supported seven dealer teams who entered a total of eight ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evos into the championship. One highlight was ŠKODA's home event, the Bohemia Rally, where three cars appeared in the colours of the factory team. Fittingly, Jan Kopecký won this rally along with the title for the Agrotec ŠKODA Rally Team.

Kopecký was also the main actor in a "[hero video](#)", showcasing some of the legendary ŠKODA Motorsport racing and rally cars from the past. Journalists had the opportunity to take a closer look at some of these legends during the 'ŠKODA Classic Days'. A book on the history of ŠKODA in motorsports and a Czech television series rounded off the activities in ŠKODA's home country.

Also based in Mladá Boleslav but attracting a wider audience is an ongoing exhibition at the ŠKODA Museum on

'[120 Years of ŠKODA Motorsport](#)'. On display until March 2022 are dozens of cars from ŠKODA's competition history, ranging from the 1908 Laurin&Klement FC to the 2019 world championship winner ŠKODA FABIA R5. ŠKODA Motorsport produced a special series edition of the current model to commemorate the jubilee. Only twelve units of the Limited Edition ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo were built and they were ordered within days.



During the 'ŠKODA Classic Days', journalists had the opportunity to ride in some of the brand's legendary racing and rally cars (pictured: ŠKODA 1100 OHC from 1957)

ŠKODA
MOTORSPORT:

