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New generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 proves itself during extreme winter test

- › North of the Arctic Circle in Finland, ŠKODA Motorsport engineers tried various solutions to prepare the new generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 for temperatures way below zero
- › WRC stars Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), Kris Meeke (GBR) and Finnish Rally Champion Emil Lindholm (FIN) ran the development car on studded tyres for the first time
- › Durability and performance of the new generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2's technical components as well under scrutiny as crew comfort

Mladá Boleslav, 17 February 2022 – While the current ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo started into the 2022 season with WRC2 victory at Rallye Monte-Carlo, the development of the successor model is already in full swing. ŠKODA Motorsport recently tested the new generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 under extreme winter conditions in northern Finland. With temperatures falling as low as minus 14 Centigrade and roads deeply covered with snow, WRC2 Champion Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), WRC star Kris Meeke (GBR) and Finnish Rally Champion Emil Lindholm (FIN) took to the wheel of the development car.

ŠKODA Motorsport customer teams worldwide and their cars have to face all sorts of weather conditions: heat in Africa, heavy rains in Asia, freezing cold in northern Scandinavia. Due to the regulations, category Rally2 cars like the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo have to withstand these conditions with limited technical adaptations only. "That's why we test the new generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 on as many surfaces and in as many conditions as possible. So, nothing surprises our customer teams, once the car enters competition," explains Jan Krasula, project leader of the development team for ŠKODA Motorsport's future rally car. With test sessions on all types of tarmac roads and gravel tracks already done, Krasula and his crew headed to the extreme winter of northern Finland.

During the five day test, temperatures above the Arctic Circle fell as low as minus 14 Centigrade. Three experienced drivers took turns at the wheel of the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 development car: reigning WRC2 Champion and FIA European Rally Champion Andreas Mikkelsen from Norway, five times WRC winner Kris Meeke from Northern Ireland and reigning Finnish Rally Champion Emil Lindholm. They drove the new generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 for the very first time on tyres equipped with the aggressive studs typically for Scandinavia. "The goal was not only to test the durability and performance of for example chassis parts and powertrain components under these harsh winter conditions," Krasula reflects. "Also, we have to make sure, that the crew finds an acceptable comfort level inside the cockpit when it's freezing outside. For example, the windscreen must not fog up and the onboard temperature must not fall below a certain level."

After trying various solutions, ŠKODA Motorsport's technicians as well as the test drivers were happy with the progress. "I already had a very good feeling with the new generation car on asphalt and gravel. After the recent test, I can confirm that for snow. I feel very, very good in the car. We are definitely on the right track with the development of new generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2," said Andreas Mikkelsen.

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Kris Meeke commented: "The whole test went as planned. We have made further progress and once more gained important insights. The ŠKODA Motorsport engineers have been trying different technical configurations. I really enjoyed driving the new generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2."

Further information:

Zbyněk Straškraba, Communications Motorsport
P +420 605 293 168
zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz
<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

ŠKODA Motorsport:



Media video and images:



Video: New generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2

This video captures the latest development test of the new generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 with WRC regulars Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), Kris Meeke (GBR) and Emil Lindholm (FIN) behind the wheel.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



New generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 / Test Finland

On snow and ice covered forest roads above the Arctic Circle in Finland, the ŠKODA Motorsport engineers tried various solutions to prepare the new generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 for winter rallies.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



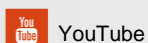
New generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 / Test Finland

Reigning WRC2 Champion Andreas Mikkelsen was one among the development drivers for the new generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2. "I feel very, very good in the car", the Norwegian said.

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New generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 / Test Finland

The new generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 underwent intensive testing in wintery conditions with temperatures reaching minus 14 Centigrade.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



New generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 / Test Finland

For the first time, the new generation ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 was run on studded tyres typical for winter events in Scandinavia.

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport

- › ŠKODA has been active in motorsport since 1901, garnering success in rallies as well as circuit racing.
- › Highlights include winning the 1981 European Touring Car Championship (ETCC) with the ŠKODA 130 RS.
- › In recent years, the ŠKODA FABIA celebrated numerous successes for the Czech manufacturer on rally stages worldwide. From 2009 to 2014, the ŠKODA FABIA S2000 (2.0 naturally aspirated engine, four-wheel drive) secured 50 international titles and national rally championships. The ŠKODA FABIA S2000 also helped to win the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) three times each.
- › The ŠKODA FABIA R5 (1.6 turbo engine, four-wheel drive) continued the S2000's success story in 2015. In the following years, ŠKODA Motorsport factory drivers took multiple titles in the FIA World Rally Championship's support category WRC2/WRC2 Pro with the models ŠKODA FABIA R5 (Rally2) and ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. Titles went to Jan Kopecký (CZE), Esapekka Lappi (FIN), Pontus Tidemand (SWE), Kalle Rovanperä (FIN) and Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR). Supported by ŠKODA Motorsport, Toksport WRT became Team Champion of the WRC2 category in 2020.
- › ŠKODA Motorsport customer teams have also won titles in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), 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).
- › In 2021, Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR, Toksport WRT) took the WRC2 Drivers' Championship and the FIA European Rally Championship overall at the wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.
- › By the end of the 2021 season, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 (Rally2) and ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo had secured over 1,500 victories and more than 3,700 podium positions in 65 countries.

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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 twelve passenger-car series: the FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ, ENYAQ iV, ENYAQ COUPÉ iV, SLAVIA and KUSHAQ.
- › delivered over 870,000 vehicles to customers around the world in 2021.
- › 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 45,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.

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