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ŠKODA FABIA RS Rally2: Optimised chassis and better weight distribution

- › Optimised chassis adapted to the specific requirements of rallying
- › More stable handling thanks to wider body and longer wheelbase
- › Test drives carried out across Europe under various weather conditions

Mladá Boleslav, 10 October 2022 – Compared to its predecessor, the FABIA RS Rally2 delivers significantly improved handling. The rally model benefits from enhanced weight distribution and balance thanks to its wider body and longer wheelbase from the production FABIA. The chassis and other components have also been strengthened to meet the specific requirements of rallying.

ŠKODA Motorsport subjected the FABIA RS Rally2 to an extremely demanding test programme under various weather conditions long before its presentation in June 2022. It took almost a year to prepare the vehicle for rally use in a range of weather conditions and on tarmac, gravel and snow. From summer 2021 onwards, this involved test drives in the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Croatia, Germany, Belgium and Spain as well as in extreme winter conditions in northern Finland.

Wider body and longer wheelbase allow for better weight distribution

The chassis of the current production FABIA enabled ŠKODA Motorsport to further optimise the handling characteristics of the rally version. The FABIA RS Rally2 benefits from the 48-millimetre-wider body compared to the previous generation and especially the 94-millimetre-longer wheelbase. This makes the vehicle smoother and at the same time improves stability at the rear. Compared to its predecessor, the fuel tank has been repositioned, and the additional space in the engine compartment has been used for a larger intercooler.

Re-tuned chassis for the specific requirements of rallying

The chassis of the FABIA RS Rally2 has been consistently engineered to meet the demands of rallying; compared to the FABIA Rally2 evo, the suspension rebound stroke of the dampers is longer and the MacPherson struts are stiffer. In addition, the engineers have reduced the amount of friction in the dampers. The longer wheelbase also prompted the development of new suspension kinematics. In addition to the design of the differential, the shift characteristics of the transmission and the durability of various components have also been optimised to reduce operating costs, among other things. These components include the kingpins, brake system and wiring harnesses. Since the FIA's technical regulations prohibit the use of electronic driving aids to improve traction, only mechanical limited slip differentials are allowed on the front and rear axles; an additional centre differential is not permitted.

Positive feedback from test drivers

The improved handling also impressed the ŠKODA works drivers, who were actively involved in developing the FABIA RS Rally2. Having taken the FABIA RS Rally2 to its limits on the extremely rough gravel roads of Fontjoncouse in the south of France shortly before its world premiere, Norwegian Andreas Mikkelsen, current World Drivers' Champion in the FIA WRC2 and FIA European Rally Champion, said: "The new ŠKODA FABIA RS Rally2 is faster and at least as



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reliable as its predecessor.” Mikkelsen also drove the FABIA RS Rally2 as a course car at the Rally Bohemia in July 2022.

Easy operation using touchpad and steering wheel buttons

Along with enhanced performance, the FABIA RS Rally2 is now easier to operate. A large main display gives an even better overview of vital sensor values for the crew, as well as having new features, such as video playback. The interior also benefits from a new central control panel with touch screen and integrated intercom. The driver can access numerous functions directly using buttons on the steering wheel, and the engine start button is also integrated into the steering wheel, where it can be accessed quickly if, for example, the engine needs to be restarted after a spin.

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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 subsequent 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). Supported by ŠKODA Motorsport, Toksport WRT became Team Champion of the WRC2 category in 2020.
- › ŠKODA Motorsport customer teams have also secured titles in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), the North and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM), the South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the 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 October 2022, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 (Rally2) and ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo had secured over 1,900 victories and more than 4,650 podium positions in 65 countries.

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 important growth markets such as India 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; has additional production capacities 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.