



# ŠKODA Motorsport, Page 1 of 4

## Perfect start: New ŠKODA Fabia R5 wins on its rally debut

- › Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler triumph with the new rally car at the opening round of the Czech Rally Championship
- › Hrabánek: "Delighted to have made such a successful start"
- › Faster and more reliable: ŠKODA Fabia R5 impresses thousands of fans on its debut on home soil

**Klatovy, 25th April 2015 – First race, first commanding victory, and the fastest time on eleven of twelve special stages: the new ŠKODA Fabia R5 enjoyed a dazzling rally debut in its native Czech Republic. Asia-Pacific champion Jan Kopecký (CZ) guided the rally car to a dominant victory at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rally Šumava Klatovy. Thousands of fans cheered on the new car, which proved to be both fast and reliable on its debut.**

"The rally debut of our new ŠKODA Fabia R5 symbolically launched a new chapter of our motorsport tradition in the home of the brand. As such, we are particularly delighted to have made such a successful start. We were very excited, and the debut showed that we are on the right track with the new rally car," said Michal Hrabánek. However, the ŠKODA Motorsport Director warned against getting carried away: "We do not want to read too much into the first result. The car and the team will have to come through some very different tests at the coming rallies."

That said, the opening round of the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) went like clockwork. The ŠKODA Fabia R5 became one of very few rally cars ever to have won its first official special stage. And there was more success to come: by the end of an impressive display over 150.71 kilometres, Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler, in the green, white and black ŠKODA Fabia R5, had opened up a lead of 1:34.6 minutes over Bryan Bouffier. The Frenchman is no slouch, having finished runner-up in the 2013 European Championship – again behind Kopecký in a ŠKODA.

"The first start with our new ŠKODA Fabia R5 could not have gone better. We were obviously a bit tense as, after all the many tests, only an actual race would truly reveal how well the car was running. And it worked perfectly: we are very happy about the win and hope we were able to impress a lot of people with our new Fabia R5," said debut driver Kopecký, who was even able to try out some different set-ups on his first outing with the new rally car. "We are already really looking forward to the next rallies, as it seems to be a great car."

The experienced 33-year-old will be back in action at the Rally Český Krumlov, the second round of the Czech Rally Championship, on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May. At almost exactly the same time, ŠKODA Motorsport will make its comeback in the WRC 2 category of the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May. European champion





# ŠKODA Motorsport, Page 2 of 4

Esapekka Lappi (FIN) and new signing Pontus Tidemand (S) will be at the wheel of the new ŠKODA Fabia R5. Hrabánek: "Running two cars will be another challenge with our new rally car. Before then, we will continue testing. The win puts us in a good position going forward, but we still have a lot of work ahead of us."

## The number for the Rally Šumava Klatovy: 11

Jan Kopecký and Pavel Dresler won eleven of the twelve special stages as the ŠKODA Fabia R5 made its race debut. Not only did the new car triumph on its very first special stage, but it won the longest stage on the rally by an impressive margin. Kopecký finished over 17 seconds ahead of Bryan Bouffier on both runs of the 25.59-kilometre stage.

## Rally Šumava Klatovy – Result

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZ/CZ), ŠKODA Fabia R5	1:20:20.9 hrs
2. Bouffier/Moreau (F/F), Citroën DS3 R5	+ 1:34.6 min
3. Valoušek/Havelková (CZ/CZ), ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000	+ 2:48.9 min
4. Odložilík/Tureček (CZ/CZ), Subaru Impreza WRC	+ 2:55.1 min
5. Sýkora/Palivec (CZ/CZ), Ford Fiesta R5	+ 2:59.5 min

## Czech Rally Championship (MČR)

Event	Date
<b>Rally Šumava Klatovy</b>	<b>24.04.–25.04.2015</b>
Rally Český Krumlov	22.05.–23.05.2015
Rally Hustopeče	19.06.–20.06.2015
Rally Bohemia	10.07.–12.07.2015
Barum Czech Rally Zlín	28.08.–30.08.2015
Rally Příbram	02.10.–04.10.2015



# ŠKODA Motorsport, Page 3 of 4

## For more information:

Karel Pokorný, Communications Motorsport

Ph. +420 604 292 191

[Karel.Pokorny1@skoda-auto.cz](mailto:Karel.Pokorny1@skoda-auto.cz)

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

## ŠKODA Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter

## Media images:



### Perfect start: New ŠKODA Fabia R5 wins on its rally debut

The new Fabia R5 heralded the next chapter in ŠKODA's successful motorsport history with a win.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### Perfect start: New ŠKODA Fabia R5 wins on its rally debut

Thousands of fans at the Rally Šumava Klatovy were impressed by ŠKODA's new rally car.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### Perfect start: New ŠKODA Fabia R5 wins on its rally debut

YouTube Video

[YouTube](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Media Services:

<http://media.skoda-auto.com>, [media@skoda-auto.cz](mailto:media@skoda-auto.cz)

ŠKODA AUTO a.s., Tř. V. Klementa 869,

293 60 Mladá Boleslav, Czech Republic

**120**  
YEARS  
ŠKODA AUTO  
SIMPLY CLEVER  
SINCE 1895



Since 2008, all evaluated ŠKODA models have received a 5-star safety rating from Euro NCAP.





# ŠKODA Motorsport, Page 4 of 4

## ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been involved in the world of motorsport since 1901. The brand has taken home many trophies from the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and several famous races, such as the oldest rally in the world – the Monte Carlo, which has taken place annually since 1911.

The Fabia Super 2000 rally car is the most successful model in ŠKODA's 114-year history in motorsport. In 2014, ŠKODA won a hat-trick of titles in the Manufacturers' and Drivers' competitions in the APRC. The new reigning champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) achieved the momentous feat of becoming the first duo in history to win the Drivers' title in the ERC and then the APRC in consecutive years.

In the ERC, ŠKODA Motorsport took the title for the third time in a row in 2014, thanks to Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) with the ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000. Before Lappi, the Finn Juho Hänninen (2012) and Jan Kopecký (2013) had won the European title with the ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000.

Between 2009 and 2014, ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000 drivers won a total of 50 national and international titles.

The International Automobile Federation FIA approved ŠKODA's new rally car - the Fabia R5 on 1 April, 2015. The new rally car was presented to the International Press in the Czech Republic on 15 April. The ŠKODA Fabia R5 celebrated its competitive début at the Šumava Rally, Czech Republic in 2015.

## ŠKODA AUTO

- › is one of the longest-established vehicle production companies in the world. In 1895, the Czech headquarters in Mladá Boleslav began producing bicycles, followed by the production of motorbikes and cars.
- › currently has seven passenger car models: Citigo, Fabia, Roomster/Praktik, Rapid, Octavia, Yeti and Superb.
- › in 2014 delivered more than one million vehicles to customers around the world for the first time in a single year.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful automotive groups in the world. ŠKODA, in association with the Group, independently manufactures and develops vehicles, as well as components, engines and gear transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic. It also manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India, mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- › employs over 25,900 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

