

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 1 of 4



Rally Argentina: Rovannerä conquers first place Double lead for ŠKODA with Tidemand second

- › On day three of the FIA World Rally Championship's fifth round 17 years old ŠKODA junior Kalle Rovannerä stormed into WRC 2 lead with a string of stage wins
- › Reigning WRC 2 Champions Pontus Tidemand and co-driver Jonas Andersson, driving another ŠKODA FABIA R5, hold second after thrilling fight with their teammates
- › ŠKODA crews continue to dominate WRC 2 category by winning every single of the rough and rocky stages in the Andes foothills
- › ŠKODA juniors Ole Christian Veiby and co-driver Stig Rune Skjaermoen, in Argentina not nominated to score WRC 2 points, hold fourth position in RC 2 class
- › ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek said: "What an incredible fight between Kalle and Pontus! Hats off to them, that they drove at that speed without doing any mistakes."

Villa Carlos Paz, 28 April 2018 – ŠKODA still dominates the WRC 2 category at Rally Argentina, fifth round of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC). Factory crews Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) and Kalle Rovannerä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) continued their fierce battle for victory on day three. This time ŠKODA junior Rovannerä took the upper hand by winning six of the day's seven gravel stages. The 17 years old Finn ended the day 23.2 seconds ahead of reigning WRC 2 champion Tidemand. Norwegians Ole Christian Veiby and Stig Rune Skjaermoen, another duo of ŠKODA juniors, hold fourth position in RC 2 class, which includes the WRC 2 category.

On the third day of Rally Argentina, the fight for the lead in the WRC 2 category was getting more and more intense. Hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic fans witnessed the fierce battle between ŠKODA Motorsport factory crews Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) and Kalle Rovannerä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN).

On Saturday, around 150 kilometres of tough special stages on Argentinian gravel roads in the Cordoba area were waiting for the crews. 17 years old Finnish ŠKODA youngster Kalle Rovannerä had a perfect start into the day. Although some fog was hovering over the mountain roads, he won the first two stages of the leg and at that point reduced the gap to teammate and reigning WRC 2 Champion Tidemand to 5.4 seconds. "For sure it wasn't easy in the fog, but on the other hand not bad. I was careful and it was okay for us," was Rovannerä's modest comment. Pontus Tidemand was already looking forward to the next stage: "It's going to be tough."

One stage later, the more than 40 kilometres between Cuchilla Nevada and Rio Pintos, Rovannerä powered his ŠKODA FABIA R5 to a dominant fastest time – 15.8 seconds faster than the second ŠKODA youngster, O.C. Veiby, who in Argentina is running outside the WRC 2 classification, being listed in RC 2 class instead. At the midday break in Villa Carlos Paz, Rovannerä was leading the WRC 2 category 23 seconds ahead of Tidemand.

After the midday service break the duel between the two ŠKODA factory crews continued. Rovannerä won another two stages, while Tidemand took some seconds back by scoring the last stage win of the day. At the end of the Saturday leg, Kalle Rovannerä led teammate Pontus Tidemand by 23.2 seconds. "We are going quite well, but we had to really push, because Pontus



ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



Page 2 of 4

was doing well. I just played it safe, I didn't want to get a puncture", he said. Pontus Tidemand confessed: "We want to get to the finish without problems."

ŠKODA junior O.C. Veiby had another strong day, although the young Norwegian suffered two punctures his ŠKODA FABIA R5. As a consequence he lost roughly two minutes in total, dropping him back into fourth in RC 2 class. ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek commented: "What an incredible fight between Kalle and Pontus! Hats off to them, that they drove at that speed without doing any mistakes. I'm especially proud, that our ŠKODA FABIA R5 mastered the very rough and rocky Argentinian stages without any problems."

Rally Argentina concludes on Sunday with another three stages, including two runs over the iconic "El Condor".

Standings Rally Argentina after Day 3 (WRC 2)

1. Rovanperä/Halttunen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 3:09:24.1 h
2. Tidemand/Andersson (SWE/SWE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +23.2 sec.
3. Greensmith/Parry (GBR/GBR), Ford Fiesta R5, +2:27.7 min.
4. Heller/Olmos (CHL/ARG), Ford Fiesta R5, +7:36.2 min.
5. Dominguez/Galindo (MEX/MEX), Hyundai i20 R5, + 12:57.8 min.

Number of the day: 17

ŠKODA junior Kalle Rovanperä is only 17 years old – the youngest driver not only in WRC 2 category but in Rally Argentina as well.

The calendar of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Monte-Carlo	24/01–28/01/2018
Sweden	15/02–18/02/2018
Mexico	08/03–11/03/2018
France	05/04–08/04/2018
Argentina	26/04–29/04/2018
Portugal	17/05–20/05/2018
Italy	07/06–10/06/2018
Finland	26/07–29/07/2018
Germany	16/08–19/08/2018
Turkey	13/09–16/09/2018
Great Britain	04/10–07/10/2018
Spain	25/10–28/10/2018
Australia	15/11–18/11/2018



ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



Page 3 of 4

Further information:

Zbyněk Straškraba, Communications Motorsport

P +420 605 293 168

zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

ŠKODA Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter

Media images:



ŠKODA at Rally Argentina 2018

Finnish ŠKODA juniors Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen took the WRC 2 category lead after the third day of Rally Argentina

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at Rally Argentina 2018

Reigning champions Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE), competing in a ŠKODA FABIA R5, hold second going into the last leg on Sunday

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO





ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 4 of 4

ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been successful on the motorsport scene since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include winning the title in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) for the first time in 2016, numerous title wins in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), as well as the victory in the European Touring Car Championship in 1981. ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Monte Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

The ŠKODA FABIA R5, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. ŠKODA's new FABIA R5 is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. Its predecessor, the FABIA SUPER 2000, won 50 national and international titles around the world. In the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) 2016, Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) won the title for the Czech car maker. In total, ten of the 2016 season's races in the World Rally Championship were won by a ŠKODA FABIA R5. ŠKODA drivers Gustavo Saba (PRY) and Gaurav Gill (IND) also won the continental championships in South America and the Asia-Pacific region at the wheel of the successful ŠKODA FABIA R5. Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT) was unbeatable in the Middle East Rally Championship (MERC), while a further ten national titles also went the way of ŠKODA drivers.

2017 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport. Works duo Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (S/S) became WRC 2 Champions, ŠKODA Motorsport won the Team Championship. Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) won the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the third time in a row and are the spearhead of in total 14 crews winning their country's national titles. Furthermore the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC) have been won by teams competing in a ŠKODA FABIA R5.

ŠKODA AUTO

- › is one of the longest-established vehicle manufacturers in the world. The company was founded in 1895 – during the pioneering days of the automobile. Today, the company's headquarters remain in Mladá Boleslav.
- › currently offers the following models in the range: CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ and SUPERB.
- › in 2017 delivered more than 1.2 million vehicles to customers worldwide.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers 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, produces in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- › employs over 35,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

