

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



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## ADAC Rallye Deutschland: Double victory in WRC 2 for ŠKODA – Jan Kopecký takes championship lead

- › ŠKODA works crew Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler wins FIA World Rally Championship's ninth round ahead of young teammates Kalle Rovannerä/Jonne Halttunen
- › Jan Kopecký now leads the WRC 2 category from ŠKODA FABIA R5 colleague Pontus Tidemand, who did not compete in Germany
- › Six ŠKODA crews inside Top-10; privateer Fabio Andolfi finishes third, Fabian Kreim of Team ŠKODA Auto Deutschland conquers fourth place

**Bosen, 19 August 2018 – What a thrilling final for the WRC 2 category at ADAC Rallye Deutschland (16–19/08/2018)! After having lost valuable time with a puncture on Saturday morning, ŠKODA factory crew Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) started an impressive race to catch up. They finally scored their fourth WRC 2 victory of the season and went into the lead of the championship standings. ŠKODA teammates Kalle Rovannerä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) also delivered a fantastic performance on their first pure tarmac event for the ŠKODA factory team and finished second ahead of ŠKODA privateers Fabio Andolfi/Emanuele Inglesi (ITA/ITA).**

On the final day of the ADAC Rallye Deutschland, three more tests totalling around 72 kilometres were waiting for the crews. Among them the demanding 29.07 kilometres of "Grafschaft", a labyrinth of hairpins and all sorts of narrow tracks and corners in the Mosel vineyards, which had to be driven twice.

17 years old ŠKODA Motorsport youngster Kalle Rovannerä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) started the Sunday as WRC 2 leaders, followed by ŠKODA privateers Fabio Andolfi/Emanuele Inglesi (ITA/ITA). After having collected a puncture on the second stage on Saturday which dropped them down from first to ninth position in the WRC 2 category standings, Czech Rally Champions Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) had been fighting back in an impressive way up to third position at the end of the leg. The top four drivers in the category were only separated by some seconds on Saturday evening. So, the fight for the victory promised to be hot again.

Come Sunday, Kopecký started with the first quickest time, reducing the gap to heroic fighting ŠKODA privateer Andolfi down to 0.1 seconds. Meanwhile, Rovannerä defended his lead. With another fastest time on the penultimate stage, Kopecký not only overtook Andolfi, but also grabbed the lead from teammate Rovannerä. "Jan is pushing like hell, he is going for the championship, while I just drive my own pace," confessed the young Finn. And with a fastest time on the last stage, Kopecký secured a well-deserved win which put him into the championship lead ahead of teammate Pontus Tidemand. The ŠKODA factory driver from Sweden had not nominated the ADAC Rallye Deutschland for his championship bid and therefore had skipped the event.

With a faultless and fast drive, ŠKODA youngsters Kalle Rovannerä and Jonne Halttunen finished a sensational second. ŠKODA privateers Fabio Andolfi/Emanuele Inglesi (ITA/ITA) were fighting until the end of the rally and finally conquered third place on an all ŠKODA podium at the finish in St. Wendel. Fabian Kreim and Frank Christian (DEU/DEU) from ŠKODA Auto Deutschland delivered an impressive performance on their home event as well and finished a respectable fourth.

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ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek was already looking forward to the coming events: "After their impressive victory here in Germany, Jan and Pavel will have an open title fight during the next FIA World Championship Rally in Turkey with Pontus and his co-driver Jonas Andersson. Kalle and Jonne drove a fantastic and absolutely faultless rally!"

## Final Result ADAC Rallye Deutschland (WRC 2)

1. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE) ŠKODA FABIA R5, 3:16:49.7 h
2. Rovanperä/Halttunen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +3.8 sec.
3. Andolfi/Inglesi (ITA/ITA), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +18.1 sec.
4. Kreim/Christian (DEU/DEU), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +50.9 sec.
5. Kajetanovicz/Szepaniak (POL/POL), Ford Fiesta R5, +54.4 sec.

## Current championship standings WRC 2 (after 9 of 13 rounds)

1. Jan Kopecký (CZE) ŠKODA, 100 points
2. Pontus Tidemand (SWE), ŠKODA, 93 points
3. Gus Greensmith (GBR), Ford, 55 points

Number of the day: 3

On the three stages of the final day of ADAC Rallye Deutschland, Jan Kopecký scored all fastest times in WRC 2.

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## 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
<b>Germany</b>	<b>16/08–19/08/2018</b>
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

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#### ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland 2018

With a WRC 2 victory at ADAC Rallye Deutschland Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (ŠKODA FABIA R5) moved into the overall lead of the category

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



#### ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland 2018

Finnish ŠKODA junior crew Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5) took second place in the WRC 2 category

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## 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.