

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Wales Rally GB: ŠKODA's Kalle Rovanperä close to victory and WRC 2 Pro title

- › Going into the final day of Wales Rally GB as leaders of WRC 2 Pro, Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) also chase premature category title
- › Despite a puncture and having rolled their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo on Saturday, ŠKODA works crew Jan Kopecký/Jan Hloušek is still second in WRC 2 Pro
- › Five more stages of 38.42 competitive kilometres to go for the ŠKODA works crews on the final Sunday leg

Llandudno, 5 October 2019 – ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo crew Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) is just five stages of 38.42 competitive kilometres away from winning WRC 2 Pro at Wales Rally GB (03/10–06/10/2019), thus prematurely taking the 2019 drivers' titles of the category\*. Despite a puncture and having rolled their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo on the third but last stage on Saturday, teammates Jan Kopecký (CZE) and co-driver Jan Hloušek (CZE) hold onto second position in WRC 2 Pro, still having valuable points for ŠKODA Motorsport in the WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' standings in sight.

During the Friday leg, Jan Kopecký and co-driver Jan Hloušek had moved into the WRC 2 Pro lead, when their teammates Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen suffered a puncture on their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, which made them drop to second in the category. The most challenging and longest leg of the rally, called "Super Saturday" with a total length of more than 420 kilometres and seven stages covering 152.50 kilometres, even had to be managed without service in between.

Although it had temporarily stopped raining, the surface of the gravel stages was mostly humid and the grip level changed all the time. So, the drivers had to "read" the road to find out, how good traction and grip really are. Kalle Rovanperä managed it well. On the first run of the longest stage of the rally, the 25.86 kilometres of "Dyfi", he stormed back into the lead of the WRC 2 Pro category. In the meantime, his main rivals for the championship suffered set-backs. Mads Østberg (Citroën) had to retire for the Saturday leg due to technical issues, while Gus Greensmith damaged his Ford and also could not continue. When ŠKODA's Jan Kopecký had to change a flat tyre on the stage, teammate Kalle Rovanperä's category lead went from slim to clear. "When there is no competition, I am not going so fast anymore, I am just enjoying the stages," he said. With only five more stages of 38.42 competitive kilometres to go during the final leg on Sunday, Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen are facing a WRC 2 Pro win, which would prematurely secure the drivers' titles of the category for the two Finns.\*

Despite having rolled their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo on stage 15, which caused a time loss of around one and a half minute, Jan Kopecký and co-driver Jan Hloušek are occupying the second position in the WRC 2 Pro category. They still have valuable points for ŠKODA Motorsport in the WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' standings of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019 in sight. After a total of 312.75 kilometres in the race against the clock, the winner will reach the podium in the seaside village of Llandudno on Sunday (6 October) around 13h33.

*\*results subject to the publication of the official results by the FIA*



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## Standings Wales Rally GB after Day 3 (R5 cars)

1. Rovanperä/Halttunen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, 2:51:32.9 h\*\*
2. P. Solberg/Mills (NOR/GBR), VW Polo GTI R5, +54.8 sec.\*
3. Gryazin/Fedorov (RUS/RUS), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +1:06.8 min.\*
4. Cave/Furniss (GBR/GBR), Hyundai i20 R5, +1:07.1 min.
5. Loubet/Landais (FRA/FRA), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +1:07.3 min.\*
6. Katsuta/Barrit (JPN/GBR), Ford Fiesta R5 MK II, +3:07.7 min.
7. Fourmaux/Jamoul (FRA/BEL), Ford Fiesta R5, +3:41.9 min.\*
8. Bulacia-Wilkinson/Cretu (BOL/ARG), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +3:51.7 min.\*
9. Andolfi/Inglesi (ITA/ITA), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +4:29.2 min.\*
10. Kopecký/Hloušek (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +4:38.7 min.\*\*

*\*\*Factory nominated crews eligible to score points in the WRC 2 Pro category*

*\*Private teams nominated for the WRC 2 category*

Number of the day: 6

Going into the final leg on Sunday, ŠKODA is with six crews the strongest brand inside the top ten of the R5 competitors at Wales Rally GB.

## The calendar of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2 Pro)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Monte-Carlo	24/01–27/01/2019
Sweden	14/02–17/02/2019
Mexico	07/03–10/03/2019
France	28/03–31/03/2019
Argentina	25/04–28/04/2019
Chile	09/05–12/05/2019
Portugal	30/05–02/06/2019
Italy	13/06–16/06/2019
Finland	01/08–04/08/2019
Germany	22/08–25/08/2019
Turkey	12/09–15/09/2019
<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>03/10–06/10/2019</b>
Spain	24/10–27/10/2019
Australia	14/11–17/11/2019

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### ŠKODA at Wales Rally GB 2019

Going into the final day of Wales Rally GB, ŠKODA works crew Kalle Rovannerä/Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) leads the WRC 2 Pro category

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at Wales Rally GB 2019

After day three of Wales Rally GB, twelfth round of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019, Jan Kopecký and co-driver Jan Hloušek (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) are second of the WRC 2 Pro category

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



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## ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

2018 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport so far. Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE) became WRC 2 champions and managed to win the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the fourth consecutive time. 2017 WRC 2 winners Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson finished second overall, and youngsters Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) completed a pure ŠKODA podium in the final standings of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship's WRC 2 category. For the fourth time in a row ŠKODA Motorsport won the WRC 2 Championship for Teams.

The success story of the Czech brand took place worldwide. The private ŠKODA driver Yuya Sumiyama and navigator Takahiro Yasui from Japan won the 2018 FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) took the title win in the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC). After winning the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) in 2013, 2016 and 2017, ŠKODA crew Gustavo Saba/Fernando Mussano (PRY/ARG) again were successful. On top of that, ŠKODA crews won 17 national championships.

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.

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.

## ŠKODA AUTO

- › was founded during the pioneering days of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established automobile companies in the world.
- › currently offers its customers nine passenger-car series: the CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ, as well as the KAMIQ and the SUPERB.
- › delivered more than 1.25 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2018.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. In association with the Group, ŠKODA AUTO independently develops and manufactures vehicles, as well as components such as engines and transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs over 39,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer to the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.