Rallye Monte-Carlo: ŠKODA Motorsport supported Andreas Mikkelsen wins WRC2

- **Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) fastest in category on eight of 14 stages during first round of the 2021 FIA World Rally Championship**
- **Toksport WRT's Norwegian crew consequently takes lead in WRC2 overall classification**
- **South American team mates Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian finish a fine fourth in WRC2 on their Rallye Monte-Carlo debut**
- **First victory for updated 2021 generation of ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo**

Monte-Carlo, 24 January 2021 – They came, saw and won. On their return to WRC2, ŠKODA Motorsport supported Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) and co-driver Ola Fløene (NOR) took WRC2 victory at Rallye Monte-Carlo (21-24 January 2021). Their success at the same time marked the first victory for the updated 2021 generation of the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. By also winning the "Power Stage", the two Norwegians start their 2021 campaign with the maximum of 30 championship points. Driving the second ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo of team Toksport WRT, WRC2 newcomers Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) end their "Monte" debut on fourth position in the category.

Perfect debut for the corporation between ŠKODA Motorsport and Toksport WRT, the 2020 WRC2 Team Champion. Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) dominated WRC2 during all three legs of the 2021 FIA World Rally Championship season opener. They took the category lead after the second stage, held in the Alps close to the French winter sports town of Gap. Arriving in Monaco on Saturday evening, the experienced Norwegians had extended the category lead to more than two minutes. During the first three stages of Sunday morning in the mountains above the Principality, snow and ice covered roads caught out more than one competitor. Mikkelsen opted for a safe approach and saved the tyres of his ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo for the rally ending "Power Stage". This strategy worked perfectly. With relatively fresh rubbers, Mikkelsen/Fløene as well were a class of their own in WRC2 during the very last stage, collecting five extra championship points.

"An absolutely amazing weekend. It's been a long time since I had so much fun during a rally," Mikkelsen commented. "Toksport WRT did a flawless job, the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo worked perfectly. The setup was great, the car very stable even in these constantly changing road conditions. We didn't have one single big moment."

A fine fourth in WRC2 ended a more than difficult "Monte" debut for Marco Bulacia at the wheel of Toksport WRT's second ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. With very limited knowledge of driving on snow and ice, the 20 years from Bolivia and Argentinian co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian even posted a handful of top three WRC2 stage times. "When we did the pace notes before the start, I didn't imagine the rally to be that difficult," admitted Bulacia. "Luckily, the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo makes live of a driver a lot easier in such challenging conditions."

Following a Rallye Monte-Carlo tradition, only the fastest 50 of the originally 79 competitors were eligible to start the last leg on Sunday. With eleven ŠKODA crews amongst them, the Czech brand fielded the majority during the final day of the legendary event

Next stop for the FIA World Rally Championship is the Arctic Lapland Rally in Finland (25-28 February 2021), a newcomer to the WRC calendar. With the base in Rovaniemi close to the polar circle, the competitors await proper winter conditions. “I haven’t driven the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo in these conditions,” WRC2 winner Andreas Mikkelsen looked ahead. “But if it works only nearly as good in Finland as it worked during Rallye Monte-Carlo, our competitors have something to fear.”

Result Rallye Monte-Carlo (WRC2)

1. Mikkelsen/Fløene (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 3:03:57.3 hrs.
2. Fourmaux/Jamoul (FRA/BEL), Ford Fiesta Rally2, +1:52.2 min.
3. Camilli/Buresi (FRA/FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, +3:12.4 min.
4. Bulacia/Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +8:51.8 min.
5. Johnston/Kihurani (USA/USA), Citroën C3 Rally2, +13:02.2 min.
6. Brazzoli/Barone (ITA/ITA), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +45:25.5 min.

Championship Standings WRC2/Drivers and co-drivers

1. Mikkelsen/Fløene (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 30 points
2. Fourmaux/Jamoul (FRA/BEL), Ford Fiesta Rally2, 22 points
3. Camilli/Buresi (FRA/FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 17 points
4. Bulacia/Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 15 points

Championship Standings WRC2/Teams

1. Toksport WRT (ŠKODA), 37 points
2. M-Sport Ford WRT, 18 points
3. Sports & You (Citroën), 15 points

Number of the day: 8
On their way to WRC2 victory, Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) were fastest of the category on eight out of 14 stages.

2021 FIA World Rally Championship

Monte-Carlo	**21 – 24 January**
Arctic Lapland (Finland)	25 – 28 February
Croatia	22 – 25 April
Portugal	20 – 23 May
Italia Sardegna	3 – 6 June
Safari Kenya	24 – 27 June
Estonia	15 – 18 July
Finland	29 July – 1 August
Ypres (Belgium)	13 – 15 August
Chile	9 – 12 September
Spain	14 – 17 October
Japan	11 –14 November

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ŠKODA Motorsport at Rallye Monte-Carlo
Video of the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo at Rallye Monte-Carlo, first round of the 2021 FIA World Rally Championship finale. ŠKODA Motorsport supported Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Fløene won WRC2 category

Download Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport at Rallye Monte-Carlo 2021
Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Fløene (NOR/NOR) drove the Toksport WRT entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to victory in WRC2 at the FIA World Rally Championship's first round

Download Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport at Rallye Monte-Carlo 2021
Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT were fastest WRC2 crew on eight of the legendary "Monte" 14 stages

Download Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport at Rallye Monte-Carlo 2021
Andreas Mikkelsen (right) and co-driver Ola Fløene (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) celebrate WRC2 victory on the podium alongside Monaco harbour

Download Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport at Rallye Monte-Carlo 2021
20 years old Marco Bulacia from Bolivia and co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian from Argentina (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) ended their “Monte” debut in fourth position in category WRC2

Download Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been successful in motorsports since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include victory in the European Touring Car Championship 1981 as well as multiple titles in the FIA World Rally Championship’s WRC2 category. Over the years, ŠKODA customer teams also won numerous national championships as well as titles in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the der Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC). ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world’s oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Rallye Monte-Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

In 2009, the ŠKODA FABIA SUPER 2000 took the rally scene by storm. The following seasons, the all-wheel-drive rally car with a 2.0 litres normally aspirated engine won 50 national and international titles worldwide. It then wrote the most successful chapter in ŠKODA’s motorsport history – until its successor surpassed it. The ŠKODA FABIA R5, a production-based rally car with four-wheel drive and 1.6 litres turbo engine, was homologated in its original form by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. Further developed to ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo (homologated on 1 April 2019), the high-tech car successfully continues the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. Due to changes in regulations, the car was re-named ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo in 2020.

The success story of the ŠKODA FABIA R5 took off in 2016, when Esapekka Lappi (FIN) won the WRC2 drivers’ title of the FIA World Rally Championship. The following year, Pontus Tidemand (SWE) won the WRC2 drivers’ category, while ŠKODA Motorsport took the WRC2 manufacturers’ title. In 2018, ŠKODA factory driver Jan Kopecký was crowned WRC 2 drivers’ champion. 2019 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport. Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) won the WRC2 Pro drivers’ and co-drivers’ title as well as substantially supporting ŠKODA Motorsport to win the WRC2 Pro manufacturers’ title. In 2020 ŠKODA customer team Toksport WRT became Team Champion of the WRC2 category.

ŠKODA AUTO

- is focusing on three priorities with the “NEXT LEVEL ŠKODA” program for the future: expanding the model portfolio in the direction of entry-level segments, opening up new markets for further growth in the volume segment, and making concrete progress in sustainability and diversity.
- currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the CITIGO^{e} iV, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ and ENYAQ iV.
- delivered more than one million vehicles to customers around the world in 2020.
- is part of Volkswagen Group since 30 years. 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 and India mainly through Group partnerships as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- employs approximately 42,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.