ŠKODA crews win WRC2 and WRC3 at Rally Estonia

- **Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Fløene (NOR/NOR) drive ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to WRC2 victory at FIA World Rally Championship round in Estonia**
- **Competing in a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo for the very first time in WRC, Russians Alexey Lukyanuk/Yaroslav Fedorov win category WRC3 despite a roll in the last stage**
- **ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo based, battery powered rally car finishes Austrian Championship round Rallye Weiz third overall on its official debut**

Tartu (EST), Weiz (AUT), 18 July 2021 – Double victory for ŠKODA crews at Rally Estonia, seventh round of the FIA World Rally Championship. Norwegians Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT win WRC2 and strengthen their category overall lead. Although being newcomers to the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Russian crew Alexey Lukyanuk/Yaroslav Fedorov dominates WRC3 on the Baltic country's gravel roads. Based on a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, the fully electric ŠKODA RE-X1 Kreisel finishes Rallye Weiz in Austria third overall.

Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene are back in victory lane. After a string of FIA World Rally Championship (WRC) events with bad luck, the Norwegians sprayed champagne from the podium of Rally Estonia. Driving the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT to WRC2 win on the ultra-fast gravel roads of the Baltics, they strengthened their lead in the category overall standings. "I would like to thank Toksport and ŠKODA for the fantastic car they provided to me and I am happy, that I could repay them with the victory the whole team deserves. The rally was very rough and we had to be smart and control to stay away from troubles", emphasized Mikkelsen at the finish line.

From the word "go", Mikkelsen was locked in a fight with fellow Norwegian Mads Østberg. The two former winners of WRC events traded stage wins, only 6.2 seconds separating the two after the morning loop of leg 1. Mikkelsen and co-driver Fløene survived a heart-stopping moment, when their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo landed heavily on its nose after a jump. When Østberg collected a puncture, Mikkelsen finally was out in front on his own. At the end of the Friday leg, his lead stood already at more than 30 seconds to second placed Nikolay Gryazin. During the second leg, Østberg fought back, but Mikkelsen always had an answer, cleverly managing his lead. Come Saturday evening, Mikkelsen still had 25.9 seconds in hand over Østberg. After a controlled and faultless ride on the final day of the Rally, he won at the end with a margin of 16.7 seconds.

Toksport WRT teammates Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) delivered a good performance on the fast Estonian gravel roads. On the first stage of final day of the rally, they briefly went off the road, lost seven seconds and the third position in the WRC2 category. One stage later, they fought back and defended the third place up to the finish. With this result, 20 years young Bulacia defended third position overall in the championship standings. "We were very happy with our pace and our ŠKODA which was simply perfect", Bulacia said.

Rally Estonia marked the world championship premiere at the wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo for reigning FIA European Rally Champions Alexey Lukyanuk. And the “Russian Rocket” debuted in style. By posting fastest WRC3 time on every single stage during legs 1 and 2, Lukyanuk won the category. Although he rolled his ŠKODA in the last special stage, he managed to finish the rally in eighth position overall.

Second place in WRC3 went to Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak in another ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. The Polish crew was more than happy with this result. “My main concern were WRC3 points, not fighting with Alexey,” Kajetanowicz revealed. With second place, he closed the gap to category overall leader Yohan Rossel, who skipped Rally Estonia.

In the WRC3 category result, Lukyanuk and Kajetanowicz were followed by seven more ŠKODA crews. “I’m very proud of our customer crews, who took the first nine places in WRC3 at Rally Estonia,” commented Michal Hrabánek, Head of ŠKODA Motorsport. “Congratulations also to Andreas Mikkelsen, who with a category victory has revived his hopes for the WRC2 title.”
Next round of the FIA World Rally Championship is a newcomer to the series. The all-asphalt Renties Ypres Rally Belgium (13 – 15 August) is part of the WRC calendar for the very first time.

Competition debut for the fully electric ŠKODA RE-X1 Kreisel
Rallye Weiz, fifth round of the Austrian Championship, saw the competition world premiere of a revolutionary rally car. With multiple Austrian rally champion Raimund Baumschlager at the wheel, the fully electric ŠKODA RE-X1 Kreisel took on conventionally driven Rally2 cars. Homologated with a power output of 260 kW, the concept car based on a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo chassis was on par right from the start. In the end, Baumschlager and co-driver Jürgen Heigl finished an impressive third overall.

Result Rally Estonia (WRC2)

1. **Mikkelsen/Fløene (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 3:01:59.0 hrs.**
2. Østberg/Eriksen (NOR/NOR), Citroën C3 Rally2, +16.7 sec.
3. **Bulacia/Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +28.6 sec.**
4. Fourmaux/Jamoul (FRA/FRA), Ford Fiesta Rally2, +56.1 sec.
5. Kristensson/Arhusiander (SWE/SWE), Ford Fiesta Rally2, +5:00.4 min.
6. Linnemäe/Morgan (EST/GBR), VW Polo GTi Rally2, +7:08.4 min.

Championship Standings WRC2/Drivers (after 7 rounds)

1. **Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 98 points**
2. Mads Østberg (NOR), Citroën C3 Rally2, 87 points
3. **Marco Bulacia (BOL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 82 points**

Result Rally Estonia (WRC3)

1. **Lukyanuk/Fedorov (RAF/RAF), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 3:01:54.2 hrs.**
2. **Kajetanowicz/Szczepaniak (POL/POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +3:15.9 min.**
3. **Heikkilä/Luhtinen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +4:14.4 min.**

4. **Lopéz/Odriozola (ESP/ESP), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +4:57.9 min.**
5. **Jeets/Toom (EST/EST), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +7:17.7 min.**
6. **Jurkevičius/Paliukėnas (LIT/LIT), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +9:58.5 min.**
7. **Zaldivar/Del Barrio (PAR/ESP), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +10:08.2 min.**
8. **Fernández/Garcia (CHL/ARG), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +24:16.6 min.**
9. **Diaz-Aboitiz/Sanjuan de Eusebio (ESP/ESP), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +35:00.0 min.**

Championship Standings WRC3/Drivers (after 7 rounds)

1. Yohan Rossel (FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 98 points
2. **Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 82 points**
3. Nicolas Ciamin (FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 57 points

Number of the rally: 20
On its way to WRC3 victory, Russian ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew Alexey Lukyanuk/Yaroslav Fedorov won 20 of in total 24 stages.

2021 FIA World Rally Championship

Rallye Monte-Carlo	21 – 24 January
Arctic Rally Finland powered by CapitalBox	26 – 28 February
Rally Croatia	22 – 25 April
Vodafone Rally Portugal	20 – 23 May
Rally Italia Sardegna	3 – 6 June
Safari Rally Kenya	24 – 27 June
Rally Estonia	**15 – 18 July**
Renties Ypres Rally Belgium	13 – 15 August
Acropolis Rally Greece	9 – 12 September
Rally Finland	30 September – 3 October
RallyRACC Rally de España	14 – 17 October
Rally Japan	11 –14 November

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 Motorsport at Rally Estonia
Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene from Norway (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) won WRC2, thus extending their category overall lead

Download Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Estonia
Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) drove the Toksport WRT ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to their fourth WRC2 podium of the season, defending third place in the overall category standings

Download Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Estonia
Two ŠKODA on the WRC2 podium: Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Fløene (NOR/NOR) as winners, Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) in third position

Download Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Estonia
Despite being completely new to the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Russian crew Alexey Lukyanuk/Yaroslav Fedorov dominantly won WRC3

Download Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Estonia
With second place in WRC3, Kajetan Kajetanowicz and co-driver Maciej Szczepaniak (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) from Poland closed the gap to the category championship leader

Download Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA RE-X1 Kreisel at Rallye Weiz
World premiere at Rallye Weiz: Multiple Austrian Rally Champion Raimund Baumschlager and navigator Jürgen Heigl drove the fully electric ŠKODA RE-X1 Kreisel to third overall among petrol-engined Rally2 cars

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.