

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



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## ADAC Rallye Deutschland: Rovannerä and Kopecký secure double lead for ŠKODA in WRC 2 Pro

- › Driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, Kalle Rovannerä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen head the category and are as well quickest among the originally 27 cars strong R5 field
- › After day two of the German round of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship, last year's WRC 2 winners Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler hold second place in WRC 2 Pro
- › In the field of the R5 cars, ŠKODA crews set six fastest times on the seven stages

**Bosen, 23 August 2019 – 18 years young Kalle Rovannerä, co-driver Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) and the ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo continue to impress in the WRC 2 Pro category of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019. After day two of ADAC Rallye Deutschland (22/08–25/08/2019), the two Finns are leading their class as well as the field of R5 cars. Their teammates Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZE/CZE), who last weekend won another title in the Czech Rally Championship, are occupying second position.**

Right from the start of the German WRC round, ŠKODA works crew Kalle Rovannerä and Jonne Halttunen set the pace among the originally 27 R5 crews. Already on the opening stage on Thursday evening, close to the service park at Bosen in the Saarland region, they powered their ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo to the fastest time in WRC 2 Pro category. Their teammates Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler finished one place down, just one second adrift. "This rally will be much tougher to win than previous events," was Kalle Rovannerä looking ahead to the three days of rallying to come.

On a sunny and warm Friday morning, the crews had to face the special stages in the famous Mosel vineyards. Overnight WRC 2 Pro leader Rovannerä continued to set fastest times. Reaching the midday rest halt at the picturesque Lake Bostal, both ŠKODA works crews topped the WRC 2 Pro category. For the rest of the day, Kalle Rovannerä remained dominant and increased his lead to 19.6 seconds ahead of teammate Jan Kopecký, who again delivered a fast and faultless drive.

ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek emphasizes: "There is still a long way to go. Kalle and Jan performed really well, and again our ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo proved to be the quickest car of its category. Our priority is to achieve a good result and to conquer as many championship points as possible for ŠKODA Motorsport to defend our lead in the manufacturers' and drivers' standings of the WRC 2 Pro championship."

In the WRC 2 category for private teams, Fabian Kreim (German champion 2016 and 2017) and reigning champion Marijan Griebel, both being supported by ŠKODA Auto Deutschland, hold third and fourth position on their first event with the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo.

On Saturday (24 August) eight special stages, four of them on the military area of Baumholder, have to be driven. Sunday (25 August) tops up the competitive route to a total of 19 tests covering 344.04 kilometres. The winner will reach the podium at Lake Bostal on Sunday at around 14h00.



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## Standings ADAC Rallye Deutschland after Day 2 (WRC 2 Pro/WRC 2)

1. Rovanperä/Halttunen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, 1:02:10.9 h\*
2. Kopecký/Dresler (CZE/CZE), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +19.6 sec. \*
3. Lefebvre/Dubois (FRA/FRA), VW Polo GTI R5, +20.1 sec.
4. Ciamin/Roche (FRA/FRA), VW Polo GTI R5, +28.2 sec.
5. Kreim/Braun (GER/GER), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +52.2 sec.
6. Østberg/Eriksen (NOR/NOR), Citroën C3 R5, +56.4 sec. \*
7. Griebel/Winklhofer (GER/GER), ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, +1:12.0 min.
8. Camilli/Veillas (FRA/FRA), Ford Fiesta R5 MKII, +1:17.2 min.\*

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

Number of the day: 6

In the field of the R5 cars, ŠKODA crews set six fastest times on the seven stages. Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen won five stages, Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler achieved one fastest time.

## 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
<b>Germany</b>	<b>22/08/–25/08/2019</b>
Turkey	12/09/–15/09/2019
Great Britain	03/10/–06/10/2019
Spain	24/10/–27/10/2019
Australia	14/11/–17/11/2019

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### ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland

After day two of the German WRC round, ŠKODA works crew Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen (ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo) lead the WRC 2 Pro category

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA at ADAC Rallye Deutschland

Driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, newly crowned Czech Rally Champions Jan Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler are second in the WRC 2 Pro category at ADAC Rallye Deutschland, tenth round of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship

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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.

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