

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 1 of 4



**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

## Rally Sweden/WRC3: ŠKODA privateers Emil Lindholm and Oliver Solberg finish second and fifth

- › After thrilling last stage of Swedish world championship round, ŠKODA privateer Emil Lindholm and co-driver Mikael Korhonen bring home second place of WRC3 category
- › A puncture during the last stage relegated Oliver Solberg and co-driver Aaron Johnston from third to fifth in WRC3 on their debut with the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo
- › Seven of the nine finishers of the WRC3 category were ŠKODA crews

Torsby, 16 February 2020 – Because of the unseasonal warm weather, the second round of the 2020 FIA World Rally Championship was shortened to nine stages covering 148.55 kilometres. But the shortest Rally Sweden (13/02–16/02/2020) ever saw a nail biting final on the very last special stage on Sunday. The 21.19 kms of “Likenäs” also brought the decision in the WRC3 category. Emil Lindholm (FIN) and Mikael Korhonen (FIN), sharing a private ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, missed WRC3 victory by just five seconds. Oliver Solberg (SWE) and co-driver Aaron Johnston (IRL) finished their WRC3 debut with the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo in fifth position after losing third during the last stage due to a puncture.

The organizers of the 2020 edition of Rally Sweden fought heroically against the unseasonal warm weather and a lack of snow in the Värmland region of Sweden and across the border in Norway. For a long time, it was not clear, whether the rally could take place at all. But common efforts finally secured nine stages covering 148.55 kilometres. On Sunday, only the 21.19 kilometres long “Likenäs” TV Wolf Power Stage remained. Under heavy rainfalls on mud and ice, the test brought the decision in a tense fight for victory and podium positions also in the WRC3 category.

The Finnish ŠKODA privateers Emil Lindholm/Mikael Korhonen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) were leading the WRC3 category until stage 7, when they lost the lead to the Hyundai crew Jari Huttunen/Mikko Lukka (FIN/FIN). During the final 21.19 kilometres of stage 9, they tried everything they could. But to no avail, they reached the finish five seconds adrift of their rivals.

18 years old ŠKODA youngster Oliver Solberg and co-driver Aaron Johnston started into the ultimate test on their WRC3 debut with the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo with a tiny lead of 1.1 seconds over former FIA World Rallycross Champion Johan Kristoffersson (SWE, Volkswagen) and co-driver Stig Rune Skjærmoen (NOR). But with the finish virtually in sight, Oliver Solberg was hit by bad luck. He collected a puncture, the time loss of 1:53 minutes relegated him to fifth place in the category.

The Finnish ŠKODA privateers Eerik Pietarinen/Miikka Anttila (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) finished fourth in the WRC3 category. ŠKODA's 2017 WRC2 Champion Pontus Tidemand (SWE) and co-driver Patrick Barth (SWE), driving a privately entered a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo of Toksport WRT Team, conquered third position of the separate WRC2 category.

“Congratulations to the ŠKODA crews, who all made it to the finish line. We are happy, that among the nine cars of the WRC3 category, seven were competing with a FABIA. I feel sorry for Oliver and Aaron. Under the most difficult road conditions, they delivered a promising performance until unfortunately a puncture cost them a possible podium position. We are now looking forward to the

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

Page 2 of 4

next event in the cooperation between Oliver's own team and us coming May in Portugal," said ŠKODA Motorsport boss Michal Hrabánek.

## Final Result Rally Sweden (WRC3)

1. Huttunen/Lukka (FIN/FIN), Hyundai i20 Rally2, 1:15:46.1 h.
2. Lindholm/Korhonen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +5.0 sec.
3. Kristoffersson/Skjærmoen (SWE/NOR), Volkswagen Polo GTI Rally2, +31.3 sec.
4. Pietarinen/Anttila (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +1:12.2 min.
5. Solberg/Johnston (SWE/IRL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +2:23.2 min.

## Championship Standings WRC3 (after 2 of 13 rounds)

1. Eric Camilli (FRA), Citroën, and Jari Huttunen (FIN), Hyundai, 25 points
3. Nicolas Ciamin (FRA), Citroën, and Emil Lindholm (FIN), ŠKODA, 18 points

Number of the day: 9

Nine ŠKODA crews started Rally Sweden, they all made it to the finish, seven of them among the nine finishers in the WRC3 category for private teams.

## The calendar of the 2020 FIA World Rally Championship

Event	Date
Monte-Carlo	23/01–26/01/2020
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>13/02–16/02/2020</b>
Mexico	12/03–15/03/2020
Argentina	23/04–26/04/2020
Portugal	21/05–24/05/2020
Italy	04/06–07/06/2020
Kenya	16/07–19/07/2020
Finland	06/08–09/08/2020
New Zealand	03/09–06/09/2020
Turkey	24/09–27/09/2020
Germany	15/10–18/10/2020
Great Britain	29/10–01/11/2020
Japan	19/11–22/11/2020

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



Page 3 of 4

## Further information:

Zbyněk Straškraba, Communications Motorsport

P +420 605 293 168

[zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz](mailto:zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz)

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

## ŠKODA Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter

## Media images:



### Oliver Solberg with ŠKODA at Rally Sweden

Driving a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, Oliver Solberg (SWE) and co-driver Aaron Johnston (IRL) finished fifth of the WRC3 category at Rally Sweden after losing a possible podium position due to a puncture during the last stage.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### At Rally Sweden, Emil Lindholm finished second in WRC3 with a private ŠKODA

Emil Lindholm/Mikael Korhonen, competing in a privately entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, finished second in WRC3, missing out on the category victory by just five seconds.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



**ŠKODA**  
SIMPLY CLEVER

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 4 of 4

## ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

2019 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport so far. In 2019, the Czech brand introduced the new ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo. Factory crew Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Halttunen won both WRC2 Pro drivers' and co-drivers' championship of the FIA World Rally Championship while ŠKODA Motorsport took the WRC2 Pro manufacturers' title. ŠKODA customer crew Pierre-Louis Loubet/Vincent Landais won the WRC2 championship for private teams.

The success story of the Czech brand took place worldwide. The FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) was won by Chris Ingram/Ross Whittock (GBR/GBR), Filip Mareš/Jan Hloušek (CZE/CZE) conquered the FIA European Rally Championship/ERC1 Junior title. Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) became FIA African Rally Champions (ARC), Ricardo Triviño/Marc Martí (MEX/ESP) won the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM). On top of that, ŠKODA crews won numerous national championships. The ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation (FIA) on 1 April 2019. The Czech rally car is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport.

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 (WRC2) 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

- › is this year celebrating 125 years since the company was founded during the pioneering era of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established car manufacturers 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 1.24 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2019.
- › 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 42,000 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.