

# ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

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## Rallye Monte-Carlo: Andreas Mikkelsen puts ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo into WRC2 lead

- › After the first leg, Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene even hold seventh place overall
- › Perfect start into the 2021 FIA World Rally Championship for the Norwegian newcomers to ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT
- › Team mates Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian finish Friday fourth in WRC2
- › Unexpected warm weather causes extremely difficult road conditions

Gap, 22 January 2021 – Unpredictable road conditions in the French Alps didn't stop Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) and co-driver Ola Fløene (NOR) from dominating WRC2 during the first leg of Rallye Monte-Carlo (21-24 January 2021). Driving a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo from ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT, the experienced Norwegians lead the category at the season opener of the FIA World Rally Championship by nearly 50 seconds. After seven of 14 planned stages, team mates Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) hold fourth position in WRC2.

Mikkelsen/Fløene, who already led WRC2 after the two opening stages on Thursday in the vicinity of the winter sports town Gap, continued to dominate the category on Friday as well. Extremely difficult road conditions with mostly wet tarmac, some slush and the occasional patch of ice made tyre choice tricky. But the two Norwegians aboard the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo looked unimpressed, winning WRC2 on five of Thursday's and Friday's seven stages. The newcomers to ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT arrived back in the Gap service park with a 47.1 seconds lead over Ford crew Adrien Fourmaux/Renaud Jamoul (FRA/BEL) with French duo Eric Camilli/François-Xavier Buresi (Citröen C3 Rally2) a further one and a half minutes down.

"I'm really enjoying this rally. The gap is quite good now and it's a nice feeling, because in the car we don't feel like we're pushing very hard," Mikkelsen summed up his day, especially praising the further developed 2021 generation of the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. "The car is fantastic in these conditions."

The experienced former factory driver was also quick to mention his safety crew, who checks each stage shortly before the start. So, the co-drivers receive valuable information about changes in road conditions compared to Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, when the pace notes were written. Which was particularly helpful during Friday, because rising temperatures had turned the snow and ice of the recce period mostly into standing water and slush. "Our safety crew is doing a great job," Mikkelsen acknowledged. So high was his pace, that he often left some of the drivers of the much more powerful WRC1 cars in his wake, finishing leg 1 in an impressive seventh position overall.

Competing for the first time for team Toksport WRT, 20 years old Marco Bulacia from Bolivia showed a steep learning curve and delivered a faultless drive. Well, nearly. "In stage 6, we had a puncture," he explained the loss of three minutes in the penultimate test of the day. Nevertheless, Bulacia and his Argentinian co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian brought the team's second ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to the evening service in fourth position in WRC2.

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Among the after leg 1 remaining 30 competitors in Rally2 cars, ŠKODA crews make up the majority. Mikkelsen/Fløene also lead this group, twelve more ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo appear on the interim result.

Rallye Monte-Carlo continues on Saturday with three stages covering 57.1 kms. The competitors leave Gap, the event's base since Monday, and turn south to the Mediterranean. Parc Fermé at the end of leg 2 is set up alongside Monaco yacht harbour.

## Standings Rallye Monte-Carlo after Leg 1 (WRC2)

1. Mikkelsen/Fløene (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 1:37:48.3 hrs.
2. Fourmaux/Jamoul (FRA/BEL), Ford Fiesta Rally2, + 47.1 sec.
3. Camilli/Buresi (FRA/FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, + 2:11.6 min.
4. Bulacia/Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, + 7:17.1 min.
5. Johnston/Kihurani (USA/USA), Citroën C3 Rally2, + 8:57.8 min.
6. Brazzoli/Barone (ITA/ITA), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, + 32:11.4 min.

## Number of the day: 6

In stage 6, WRC2 front-runners Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) posted the sixth fastest time overall.

## 2021 FIA World Rally Championship

<b>Monte-Carlo</b>	<b>21 – 24 January</b>
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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## Media images:



### ŠKODA Motorsport at Rallye Monte-Carlo 2021

Supported by ŠKODA Motorsport, Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Fløene (NOR/NOR) in the Toksport WRT entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo lead WRC2 after leg 1

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA Motorsport at Rallye Monte-Carlo 2021

For Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) from Norway, day 2 of the opening round of the FIA World Rally Championship started very early in the morning

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



### ŠKODA Motorsport at Rallye Monte-Carlo 2021

Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) compete in WRC2 with a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo of team Toksport WRT supported by ŠKODA Motorsport. After leg1, the youngsters are fourth of the category

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### ŠKODA Motorsport at Rallye Monte-Carlo 2021

ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew Marco Bulacia/Marcelo Der Ohannesian (BOL/ARG) during the early morning of Friday in the French Alps

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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 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



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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<sup>®</sup> 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.