

## Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 development continues

- › Škoda Motorsport's engineering team continuously keeps improving its newest rally car – also in its second season
- › Aleš Rada, Technical Head of Škoda Motorsport: „Lately, we were concentrating on dampers, gear ratios and aerodynamics.“
- › Development drivers Oliver Solberg and Erik Cais confident after test drives on snow-covered roads in Scandinavia and gravel tracks in Portugal.

**Mladá Boleslav, 20 March 2024 – The Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 received homologation by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) on 1 September 2022. While the main components of the car are frozen since that date, work on technical details is still possible. Škoda Motorsport's development team is further improving the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 to give the customers an even more competitive and reliable car.**

In motorsports, standing still means falling back. Even with the very strict homologation rules in Rally2 category, the engineers of Škoda Motorsport are further developing the Fabia RS Rally2. “We are constantly improving the car for our customers. But due to the regulations, after homologation of the car, we are not allowed to change technical components at free will,” explains Aleš Rada, Technical Head of Škoda Motorsport. Once homologated by the governing body FIA, only some parts of a Rally2 car can be modified. To introduce a modification, the manufacturer has to submit a homologation extension. There are several types of such extensions. Some of them refer to corrections of errors in the homologation form or evolutions-of the base car in serial production.

Major modifications resulting in a technical evolution of the car need to be homologated as an “Erratum Joker”, or joker in short. Jokers are restricted in number by regulations. “During the first 2 years of homologation period of the car we are allowed to use only three jokers and another two only for safety or reliability adaptations,” describes Aleš Rada. The Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 was homologated on 1 September 2022 and still is inside this two-year period. So, Škoda Motorsport has a couple of jokers up its sleeves.

During the winter, one goal for the Škoda Motorsport engineering team was to make the Fabia RS Rally2 even more competitive for fast gravel rallies. A point of development in this respect was the gear ratio of the car's five-speed gearbox. “So far, we homologated only one set of ratios. But we are allowed a second set,” explains Rada.

Oliver Solberg, who recently won the WRC2 category at Rally Sweden, test-drove the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 on frozen roads in Scandinavia to try new aerodynamic solutions and the longer gear ratios. “Our second victory in a row on the high-speed stages in Sweden proved, that the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 is already very fast. But especially for customer teams it's also important, that the car is easy to drive and works perfectly in a wide range of road conditions,” says Solberg.

Erik Cais took to the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2's wheel on Portuguese gravel roads, trying new dampers. "How much effort Škoda Motorsport is putting into testing and development is incredible. Especially the dampers for gravel show a big improvement compared to last year. They give a lot of grip and in turn the driver a lot more confidence," Cais concluded.

The 2024 FIA World Rally Championship is already past its second event. After the icy tarmac roads of Rallye Monte-Carlo and the winterly forests tracks of Sweden the rough gravel of the Safari Rally Kenya are next on the calendar. The work of Oliver Solberg, Erik Cais and the whole team at Škoda Motorsport makes sure, that the customer teams and their cars stay on top of the game.

### Further information:

Anežka Boudná

Communications Motorsport

P +420 734 298 801

[anezka.boudna@skoda-auto.cz](mailto:anezka.boudna@skoda-auto.cz)

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

### Škoda Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



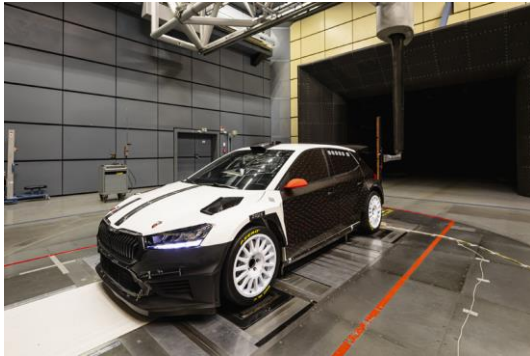
### Media images:



### Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 development

During extensive testing in Portugal, Škoda Motorsport tested new gear ratios and improved the suspension set-up of the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

Source: Škoda Auto



## Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 development

The Škoda Motorsport engineering team could use the Audi wind tunnel in Ingolstadt (Germany) to work on the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2's aerodynamics.

Source: Škoda Auto



## Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 development

New gravel dampers will be offered for the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2

Source: Škoda Auto

## Škoda Motorsport

- › Škoda has been active in motorsport since 1901, garnering success in rallies as well as in circuit racing.
- › Highlights include winning the 1981 European Touring Car Championship (ETCC) with the Škoda 130 RS.
- › Since 2009, the Škoda Fabia celebrated numerous successes for the Czech manufacturer on rally stages worldwide.
- › Until 2014, the Škoda Fabia S2000 (2.0 naturally aspirated engine, four-wheel drive) secured 50 international titles and national rally championships. The Škoda Fabia S2000 also helped to win the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) three times each.
- › The successor model Škoda Fabia R5 (1.6 turbo engine, four-wheel drive) entered the scene in 2015. Later renamed to Škoda Fabia Rally2 and followed by the further developed Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo, the model collected nearly 2,000 victories in 68 countries until the end of the 2022 season.
- › During this period, Škoda Motorsport factory drivers Jan Kopecký (CZE), Esapekka Lappi (FIN), Pontus Tidemand (SWE) and Kalle Rovanperä (FIN) won the FIA World Rally Championship's support category WRC2/WRC2 Pro. Škoda Motorsport also took the WRC2/WRC2 Pro Manufacturers' title five times in a row from 2015 to 2019.
- › Beginning with the 2020 season, Škoda Motorsport changed its strategy to supporting private teams. The success story continued: Driving a Škoda Fabia Rally2 evo run by Toksport WRT, Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR) und Emil Lindholm (FIN) became WRC2 Champions in 2021 and 2022. Mikkelsen became WRC2 Champion again in 2023 with team Toksport WRT, when the all-new Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 entered the scene. The Škoda Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT also won the WRC2 Teams' title four times in a row from 2020 to 2023.
- › Škoda Motorsport customer teams have also won titles in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), 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 Auto

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the Next Level – Škoda Strategy 2030.
- › aims to be one of the five best-selling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
- › effectively leverages existing potential in important growth markets such as India, North Africa, Vietnam and the ASEAN region.
- › currently offers its customers eleven passenger-car series: the Fabia, Scala, Octavia and Superb as well as the Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Enyaq, Enyaq Coupé, Slavia and Kushaq.
- › delivered over 866,000 vehicles to customers around the world in 2023.
- › has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- › independently manufactures and develops components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions as part of the Volkswagen Group; these components are also used in vehicles of other Group brands.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; has additional production capacity in China, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- › employs over 40,000 people globally and is active in around 100 markets.