

## Škoda Motorsport Bonus Programme enters third season with ERC opener in Spain

- › **The 2026 FIA European Rally Championship gets underway this weekend with the Andalusia Rally-Sierra Morena – Córdoba World Heritage Site in Spain**
- › **Reigning ERC champions Mikołaj Marczyk and co-driver Szymon Gospodarczyk head the field in their Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, carrying number 1**
- › **A record 21 teams and 32 drivers have registered for the third season of the Škoda Motorsport Bonus Programme, which once again rewards podium finishes**

**Mladá Boleslav, 16 April 2026 – Now in its third season, the Škoda Motorsport Bonus Programme has reached a record level, with 21 teams and 32 drivers registered for the award scheme running alongside the FIA European Rally Championship. The series gets underway in Spain with the Andalusia Rally-Sierra Morena – Córdoba World Heritage Site, which takes place from 17 to 19 April 2026. As in the previous two seasons, Škoda Motorsport's distinctive white-and-green spare parts truck will again serve as a key point of contact and support in the service park.**

Since its launch in 2024, the Škoda Motorsport Bonus Programme for customer teams competing in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) has proved a resounding success. While 13 teams and 16 drivers registered in the first year, that number has doubled to 32 drivers for the 2026 season. At the same time, the number of teams has increased to 21. With the ERC season opener, the Andalusia Rally-Sierra Morena – Córdoba World Heritage Site, taking place this weekend, the award scheme is entering its third year.

The programme's rewards are just as appealing as last year. A €50,000 discount on the purchase price of a new Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 is on offer to the team of the 2026 FIA European Rally Champion, provided they compete in a Škoda. The winning team are also guaranteed a new Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 for the 2027 season. If a registered Škoda driver finishes second overall, their team will receive a discount voucher worth €25,000. Third place earns a discount voucher worth €15,000. The total value of the year-end awards is €90,000.

In addition, Škoda Motorsport is offering awards to registered Škoda drivers who secure a podium finish at each of the seven ERC rounds. The vouchers are worth €20,000, €12,000 and €8,000 for first, second and third place respectively. With a total value of €40,000 per event, these vouchers can be redeemed against orders for Škoda Motorsport spare parts.

**19 Škoda crews target championship points in the first ERC round**

The 2026 FIA European Rally Championship calendar features seven rounds, five of them on asphalt. The opening event is the Andalusia Rally-Sierra Morena – Córdoba World Heritage Site in southern Spain. The rally gets underway this Friday (17 April) at 8:05 pm with a one-kilometre show stage through the streets of Córdoba. On Saturday and Sunday, a further 12 stages covering just over 200 kilometres are scheduled. The winners will be celebrated on the podium in Córdoba's El Arenal district at 7 pm on Sunday.

Reigning champions Mikołaj Marczyk and co-driver Szymon Gospodarczyk will start the season with number 1 on their Topp Cars-run Škoda Fabia RS Rally2. "Seven demanding rallies await us, five on asphalt and two on gravel. One of the new additions will be Rally Poland in a new location, in Silesia. I'm looking forward to this event and I'm happy that we will once again have the opportunity to meet Polish fans there," says Mikołaj Marczyk, looking ahead to the new season. "We will be defending our title, and I know it will be a very difficult task. We are sticking with a proven car that has been a reliable companion for years – the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2," adds co-driver Szymon Gospodarczyk.

The Polish duo will face strong opposition. In total, 19 of the 30 crews entered in the top ERC1 category are competing in the Škoda Fabia RS Rally2. Czech outfit Auto Podbabská Škoda Team fields Dominik Stříteský and co-driver Ondřej Krajča. Recalvi Team's José Antonio Suárez and Alberto Iglesias Pin will fly the Spanish flag as the reigning champions of the Spanish Rally Superchampionship. Hungary's Gábor Németh and Gergely Németh, along with Italy's Giandomenico Basso and Lorenzo Granai, are also champions of their respective national series.

Team Racing Factory-Motorsport Solutions is relying on the experience of Finland's Teemu Suninen and co-driver Antti Haapala. Romania's Simone Tempestini and Sergiu Itu compete for Team MRF Tyres. Poland's Jakub Matulka and Damian Syty, as well as JC Raceteknik's Isak Reiersen and Stefan Gustavsson from Sweden, will also bring Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 machinery to Córdoba. Former single-seater racer Tristan Charpentier has switched to a Škoda Fabia RS Rally2 run by Orsák Rally Sport for the upcoming ERC season. The 25-year-old Frenchman will be supported by fellow countryman Loris Pascaud. The award for the longest journey to Spain arguably goes to Fabrizio Zaldivar from Paraguay, who will once again rely on the pace notes of Italian co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian.

**2026 FIA European Rally Championship**

43rd Andalusia Rally-Sierra Morena – Córdoba World Heritage Site, Spain (asphalt)	17-19 April
BAUHAUS Royal Rally of Scandinavia, Sweden (gravel)	22-24 May
Rally di Roma Capitale, Italy (asphalt)	3-5 July
82nd Rally Poland (asphalt)	24-26 July
Barum Czech Rally Zlín (asphalt)	14-16 August
JDS Machinery Rali Ceredigion, UK (asphalt)	4-6 September
Rally Five Cities North of Portugal (gravel)	23-25 October

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**Škoda crews competing in the 2026 FIA European Rally Championship**

Reigning ERC champions Mikołaj Marczyk and co-driver Szymon Gospodarczyk begin their title defence in the Topp Cars-run Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

Source: Mikołaj Marczyk



**Škoda crews competing in the 2026 FIA European Rally Championship**

Regular contenders in the FIA World Rally Championship, Paraguayan driver Fabrizio Zaldivar and Italian co-driver Marcelo Der Ohannesian will be a strong force on gravel in the ERC.

Source: Škoda Auto



**Škoda crews competing in the 2026 FIA European Rally Championship**

Swedes Isak Reiersen and co-driver Stefan Gustavsson swap the snow of their homeland for the Spanish tarmac in the JC Raceteknik Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

Source: Škoda Auto



**Škoda crews competing in the 2026 FIA European Rally Championship**

Romanians Simone Tempestini and Sergiu Itu once again share a Team MRF Tyres Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

Source: Red Bull Content Pool



**Škoda crews competing in the 2026 FIA European Rally Championship**

Giandomenico Basso and co-driver Lorenzo Granai arrive in the ERC as the reigning Italian champions in their Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

Source: Red Bull Content Pool



**Škoda crews competing in the 2026 FIA European Rally Championship**

At the season-opening Andalusia Rally-Sierra Morena – Córdoba World Heritage Site, Spanish crew José Antonio Suárez and Alberto Iglesias Pin will be aiming to make the most of home advantage in their Team Recalvi Škoda Fabia RS Rally2.

Source: Red Bull Content Pool



**Škoda crews competing in the 2026 FIA European Rally Championship**

Czech crew Dominik Střítecký and Ondřej Krajča contest the 2026 ERC season for Auto Podbabská Škoda Team.

Source: Red Bull Content Pool



**Škoda crews competing in the 2026 FIA European Rally Championship**

Former single-seater racer Tristan Charpentier embarks on his ERC campaign with Orsák Rally Sport's Škoda Fabia RS Rally2, partnered by fellow Frenchman Loris Pascaud.

Source: Tristan Charpentier

**Škoda Motorsport**

- › Škoda celebrates 125 years of Motorsport since the first efforts in 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 three times in 2020, 2022 and 2023. In 2025 Toksport WRT took another WRC2 Teams' title and Nikolay Gryazin/Konstantin Aleksandrov of Toksport WRT become WRC2 Challenger drivers' and co-drivers' champions respectively.
- › 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;
- › aims to become one of the top three best-selling brands in Europe by the end of the decade by offering its customers the best of both worlds through a range of attractive BEV, hybrid & ICE products;
- › effectively exploits the potential in important growth markets such as India, Vietnam and the ASEAN region;
- › currently offers customers 12 passenger car model ranges: Fabia, Scala, Octavia, Superb, Kamiq, Karoq, Kodiaq, Elroq, Enyaq, Slavia, Kylaq and Kushaq;
- › delivered more than 1,040,000 vehicles to customers worldwide in 2025;
- › has been part of the Volkswagen Group, one of the world's most successful car manufacturers, for more than 30 years;
- › is part of Brand Group CORE, an organisational merger of the Volkswagen Group's volume brands, with the aim of achieving joint growth and significantly increasing the overall efficiency of all five volume brands;
- › independently develops and produces components such as MEB battery systems, engines and transmissions for other Volkswagen Group brands;
- › operates three production plants in the Czech Republic; has production capacities in Slovakia, Kazakhstan and India, mostly through group partnerships, as well as in Vietnam and Ukraine in cooperation with a local partner;
- › employs around 40,000 people worldwide and is active in almost 100 markets.