

## **Solberg, Kristoffersson and Volkswagen Sweden line up for new RX dream team**

### **Triple FIA World Champion Petter Solberg and his Petter Solberg World RX Team will contest this year's FIA World Rallycross Championship in a Volkswagen Polo RX Supercar.**

Swedish star and 2016 FIA World RX silver medallist Johan Kristoffersson will join Solberg in the PSRX team. The sensational Scandinavian pair will both drive Volkswagen Polo RX Supercars developed and engineered in Hannover.

The all-new alliance will present Norwegian star Solberg and his PSRX-Volkswagen Sweden partnership with a very real opportunity to lift this year's title.

A delighted Petter said the deal was the one he'd been waiting for.

"This is the dream," said the Norwegian. "With backing from Volkswagen Sweden and the top-notch Johan Kristoffersson as my team-mate, everything is possible. From the start, we are aiming at gold in the championship, this is my priority for 2017: I want to take this for my PSRX Team and for Volkswagen Sweden.

"All of my team has worked so hard for so many years to be in the position to make this deal and now we're here, it's fantastic. It really is the dream for me. We have so much potential, but we also have a lot of work to do – but what an incredible future we are working towards now. Everything in the world is possible and achievable now. We will reach for the sky and, in typical Petter Solberg World RX Team fashion, we will give it 110%."

The Norwegian is ultimately responsible for the sporting operations of the new Petter Solberg World RX Team, supported by Volkswagen Sweden and its distributors. The team is based on Solberg's rallycross outfit for the last three years, but with cars coming – along with technical support – from Volkswagen Motorsport in Germany.

Volkswagen Motorsport Director Sven Smeets said: "We are very much looking forward to working together with Petter Solberg and Volkswagen Sweden in the World Rallycross Championship. After our great success with the Beetle in Global Rallycross in the US and our company's re-alignment towards customer sports, the expansion to WRX is the next logical step.

"Based on our knowledge and success in GRC and WRC we will build the Volkswagen Polo RX Supercars and provide technical support. Petter Solberg's team and Volkswagen Sweden will take care of the operation of the whole project. This strong co-operation provides everything needed to be successful."

The Petter Solberg World RX Team headquarters will remain in Torsby, Sweden.

A proud Kristoffersson admitted it wasn't just Solberg who'd realised a dream with this deal.

"I am incredibly proud to be part of this extremely exciting project with Petter Solberg and Volkswagen Sweden. It's a dream come true in every way! Together we will do everything in our power to achieve success. I intend to grab this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with both hands."

World Rally Champion in 2003, Solberg was the first ever FIA World Champion in rallycross in 2014. He followed that up with back-to-back World RX golds in 2015. Kristoffersson took the World RX bronze in 2015 and silver last season.

"We are very proud to continue to partner an international rallycross project and to be able to present one of the most exciting news stories in world motorsport." said Sten Forsberg, head of Volkswagen Sweden.

The 2017 FIA World RX Championship starts in Barcelona, Spain on March 31. The championship consists of 12 World RX rounds and concludes in Cape Town, South Africa on November 12.

#### **PETTER SOLBERG**

Age: 42 (18/11/1974)

Location: Mitandersfors, Sweden

Nationality: Norwegian

RX stats:

World Championship gold in 2014 and 2015

9 single victories (9 wins – 7 second places – 6 third places)

#### **JOHAN KRISTOFFERSSON**

Age: 28 (06/12/1988)

Location: Arvika, Sweden

Nationality: Swedish

RX stats:

World Championship silver in 2016 and bronze in 2015

2 single victories (2 wins – 3 second places – 3 third places)

#### **2017 FIA World RX Championship**

March 31-April 2, Barcelona, Spain

April 21-23 Montalégre, Portugal

May 5-7 Hockenheim, Germany

May 12-14 Mettet, Belgium

May 26-28 Lydden Hill, United Kingdom

June 9-11 Hell, Norway

June 30-July 2 Höljes, Sweden

August 4-6 Trois-Rivieres, Canada

September 1-3 Lohéac, France

September 15-17 Riga, Latvia

September 29-October 1 Buxtehude, Germany

November 10-12 Cape Town, South Africa

