

News release  
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### **A Polo GTI R5 in perfect conditions makes for a Petter day...**

Petter Solberg returned to cutting-edge rally technology last week, driving Volkswagen Motorsport's Polo GTI R5 for a day of evaluation testing in northern Sweden.

Predictably, the 2003 FIA World Rally Champion was in his element in Volkswagen's all-new R5 car and drove almost the same distance as a three-day WRC round. The team was testing in temperatures as low as -15 Celsius close to Kall, north-west of Östersund.

Solberg, who last competed regularly in the World Rally Championship in 2012, said: "It was just fantastic to be back behind the wheel of a rally car again and to help out the Volkswagen family. It was a really, really fun day of driving."

The Norwegian superstar is, of course, no stranger to a Volkswagen Polo, having driven the RX Supercar in the 2017 FIA World Rallycross Championship, where he and team-mate Johan Kristoffersson (SWE) won the teams' title for PSRX Volkswagen World RX Team Sweden.

Former Rally Sweden winner Petter was full of praise for the work the Hannover-based team has completed with its latest rally car, saying: "Volkswagen has done such a great job and the Polo GTI R5 is fantastic to drive. I didn't want to get out at the end of the day!

"We covered almost 300 kilometres in really nice winter conditions during the day. That's very, very different and a lot more kilometres than I'm used to doing in a World RX test.

"I have a lot of experience in rallying and with developing rally cars and using this experience we were able to make some small changes to the Polo. I have to say a big thank you to Volkswagen Motorsport for the work they did during the day and I also have to say the same to my co-driver for the day, Veronica Engan. Veronica is used to co-driving a Solberg in a rally car, but normally it's my son Oliver!"

Petter wasn't the only World Rally Champion to sample Volkswagen's Polo GTI R5, with Marcus Grönholm (FIN) and reigning WRC 2 title holder Pontus Tidemand (SWE) also driving during the Swedish test.

#### **Contact:**

Sandra Evans PR/media manager  
[sandra@pettersolberg.no](mailto:sandra@pettersolberg.no)  
+46 76 110 7 110

+44 (0)7887 693993

[psrxvw.com](http://psrxvw.com)

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