

News release
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PSRX Volkswagen Sweden celebrates dominant win in Belgium

Since the start of the season, the pace and potential of the PSRX Volkswagen World RX Team Sweden has been the talk of the World Rallycross paddock. Today Johan Kristoffersson, Petter Solberg and the Torsby team delivered the perfect performance with a double podium at World RX of Belgium.

Just as they were last time out in Hockenheim, the two Polo GTI Supercars were at the top of the timesheets from the very start of competition. But this time Johan stayed there right until the final flag at the Mettet track. Taking his third World RX podium from the season's four races, the superstar Swede was delighted to deliver PSRX Volkswagen Sweden's maiden victory.

"This is special," he said. "What an incredible feeling. I know Petter and I have talked about this a few times this year, but I think we are both so happy with the way the team is working with Volkswagen Motorsport and the speed we have had this weekend has shown that. The car has been perfect for me. From when we started the first practice, I have been driving with a huge smile on my face.

"The final was really good. It was a shame not to be on the front row alongside Petter for the start, but the semi was a tough race and – in the end – it's only the final that matters."

Kristoffersson's victory moves him to within three points of the championship lead after round four.

"I'm very, very happy with the start of the season," he said. "We all know, this is a new team with new people working together. It couldn't have gone better, it's the perfect relationship and, you know, we are getting faster and faster all the time. The teams' championship is really a good place for PSRX Volkswagen Sweden and Petter and I both closed the gap a little bit to [Mattias] Ekström this weekend, which is fantastic as well."

Triple FIA World Champion and PSRX Volkswagen Sweden team owner Solberg echoed those sentiments, adding: "What a weekend! We have seen this kind of speed and race coming for a while. I'm so pleased for Johan, but I'm even more pleased for the whole team. The guys in Hannover at Volkswagen Motorsport and in our factory in Torsby have really come together for this result; the guys from Volkswagen brought the knowledge of the car and we have matched them with the knowledge of the sport. It's made for a very strong partnership."

Knowing what the car was capable of, Petter was delighted with the result – even if his own chances of success were dented by three punctures through the weekend.

Petter said: “There was maybe a little bit of frustration when we had the speed but not the results earlier in the year, but here we have really put it all together. It was some tough racing out there this weekend, sometimes I felt a little bit like the meat – or maybe the ham and cheese – in the middle of the sandwich; I was being pushed from the back and from the side, from every direction. But, you have to deal with that and you have to race with that pressure. It was intense, but we did it. On a personal level, three punctures this weekend really compromised my tyre strategy and for the final we really didn’t have much left to choose from – but we made it. Both cars in the final for the fourth consecutive race, two cars on the podium and PSRX Volkswagen Sweden’s first win. That is a good weekend!”

Result:

1 Johan Kristoffersson	4m02.316s
2 Timmy Hansen	+0.924s
3 Petter Solberg	+0.935s
4 Mattias Ekström	+3.057s
5 Kevin Eriksson	+11.269s
6 Andreas Bakkerud	DNF

Drivers’ championship positions:

1 Ekström	101pts
2 Kristoffersson	98pts
3 Solberg	87pts
4 Hansen	72pts
5 Loeb	61pts
6 Bakkerud	52pts

Teams’ championship positions:

1 PSRX Volkswagen Sweden	180pts
2 EKS	143pts
3 Team Peugeot-Hansen	133pts

Next time out World RX of Great Britain (May 26-28)

It’s back to the birthplace of rallycross for the next FIA World RX round: Lydden Hill. Fifty years ago Porsche driver Vic Elford won the very first race combining the asphalt of the race track with the British gravel. Forty-eight years on and it was Petter Solberg celebrating at the Kent circuit when he won the 2015 World RX of Great Britain.

Want to know more?

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