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Škoda is top of the Top Gear pops

More than 56,000 Top Gear readers rated 152 cars in the magazine's annual owner satisfaction survey.

Overall Škoda was voted the number one car manufacturer of 2006 by respondents, with the Octavia, Fabia and Superb all making the top ten. Third place in the prestigious pole went to the previous generation Octavia, which Top Gear described as "a masterpiece of dependability". Fourth place belonged to the "charming" little Fabia, with the luxurious Superb scooping seventh place in the reader response survey. These three impressive rankings contributed to Škoda's overall victory.

A spokesperson for the leading motoring magazine said: "It's a stunning achievement by the Czech manufacturer to break the Japanese monopoly at the top of the table - particularly to overhaul the domination of Lexus - and just reward for a decade of producing spot-on cars that press exactly the right buttons for its owners. Let us toast Škoda."

The survey results feature in the March issue of Top Gear magazine and you can also view them at www.topgear.com .

For further enquiries, please contact
Marie Tang
Marketing Manager
Tel: 6472 1188
Email: marie.tang@skoda.com.sg