



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

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Michelin wins 90th Le Mans 24 Hours with tyres developed entirely on the simulator

- Michelin has extended its unbeaten run at Le Mans to 25 victories since 1998
- Designed and developed exclusively on the simulator, Michelin's latest-generation endurance racing tyres confirmed their outstanding performance potential and consistency on both the Hypercar and LMGTE cars
- Michelin continues to innovate with the first racing tyre to contain 53 percent sustainable materials. This tyre took to the racetrack for the first time during Le Mans week fitted to the H24 fuel-cell electric prototype

After spending much of the 24-hour classic running at the sharp end of the field, the N°8 Toyota GR010 Hybrid of Sébastien Buemi, Brendon Hartley and Ryo Hirakawa went on to earn Toyota Gazoo Racing's fifth consecutive Le Mans 24 Hours victory. Second was its N°7 sister car (Mike Conway/Kamui Kobayashi/José María López), ahead of the N°709 Glickenhaus 007 of Ryan Briscoe, Richard Westbrook and Franck Mailleux who came third to go one place better than the American constructor's result in 2021. Its N°708 car (Romain Dumas/Olivier Pla/Felipe Derani) was fourth. The winning Toyota set a new distance-record for the recently-introduced Hypercar category, completing 380 laps of the 13.626-kilometer track to total 5,178 kilometres.

"In spite of the extremely hot weather, our tyres provided further evidence of their performance and consistency at Le Mans this weekend," reports **Pierre Alves**, the manager of Michelin's endurance racing programmes. "After the early-season's trips to Sebring [Florida, USA] and Spa-Francorchamps [Belgique], we were keen to see how our tyres performed at the most exacting round of the FIA World Endurance Championship. In parallel to our participation in the 2022 FIA WEC, it should be remembered that Michelin is also preparing for the arrival of new partners in the sport's headlining Hypercar class from 2023, not to mention the imminent race debut of the new Peugeot Sport 9X8 at the 6 Hours of Monza in less than a month."

Not only is the Le Mans 24 Hours the longest round of the world championship, but it also the race that generates the highest average speeds which reached approximately 215kph in the case of this year's winning N°8 Toyota GR010 Hybrid. Circuit de La Sarthe is 13.626 kilometres long and the drivers cover more than nine of those kilometres at maximum load. Furthermore, the fact that there were 62 starters meant that coping smartly with the omnipresent traffic necessitated constant vigilance from the drivers in all four different classes.



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The conditions turned out to be ideal to evaluate the characteristics and qualities of Michelin's tyres as the drivers – this year in particular – looked to push them to the limit in a bid for maximum performance from the rolling start to the chequered flag.

As the race progressed, the tyre-specs selected evolved as a function of the track temperature. The Hypercars lined up for the start on the medium compound, before switching to the 'soft hot weather' option during the hours of darkness. The LM GTE runners favoured the 'soft hot weather' tyre early on, which they traded for the 'cold weather' alternative until mid-morning Sunday.

The consistency of all of these variants provided Michelin's partner drivers with the confidence they needed for the challenging French race, while the advice and services offered by the teams' respective Michelin technicians proved invaluable in helping to establish the most effective race strategies.

Victory for Porsche GT Team in LMGTE Pro with Michelin

The N°92 Porsche 911 RSR 19 of Gianmaria Bruni, Richard Lietz and Frédéric Makowiecki took the top prize in LM GTE Pro, ahead of the N°51 and N°52 AF Corse Ferraris of Alessandro Pier Guidi/James Calado/Daniel Serra and Miguel Molina/Antonio Fuoco/Davide Rigon.

The LM GTE Am victory went to TF Sport's N°33 Aston Martin Vantage AMR (Ben Keating/Henrique Chaves/Marco Sorensen). It was followed over the line by the N°79 WeatherTech Racing Porsche 911 RSR 19 (Cooper MacNeil/Julien Andlauer/Thomas Merrill) and Northwest AMR's N°98 Aston Martin Vantage AMR (Paul Dalla Lana/David Pittard/Nicki Thiim). All these cars benefited from tyres and services provided by Michelin Motorsport.

Tyres developed exclusively on the simulator

The Hypercar and LM GTE runners shared the fact that they all ran Michelin tyres developed entirely on the simulator, with no prior testing on an actual car until the teams' first track runs early in 2021.

Normally, development testing calls for significant human, logistical and other resources, but Michelin's digital technology meant that this phase could be sidestepped. There was consequently no need to produce any test tyres whatsoever, which led to considerable energy, material and time savings, in line with Michelin's Everything Sustainable plan.



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Track debut for the new Michelin racing tyre containing 53 percent sustainable materials during Road To Le Mans race

After introducing a tyre containing 46 percent sustainable materials at Le Mans in 2021, Michelin took its technology a step further this year by raising the bar to 53 percent of biosourced and recycled raw materials for its new high-performance racing tyre.

The Michelin tyre containing 53 percent sustainable materials took to the racetrack for the very first time in one of the 24-hour classic's support races (Road To Le Mans, organised within the framework of the Michelin Le Mans Cup) fitted to the H24 fuel-cell electric prototype. Michelin has an active involvement in the MissionH24 programme which seeks to promote the expansion of zero-emissions mobility.

Michelin has already announced that it aims to manufacture all of its tyres using sustainable materials alone by 2050, with an interim target of 40 percent by 2030.

Michelin's ambition is to improve the mobility of its customers over the long-term. As a leader in the mobility domain, Michelin designs, manufactures and distributes tyres best-suited to customers' needs and uses, as well as services and solutions to enhance vehicle efficiency. Michelin also offers its customers ways to enjoy unique experiences during their journeys and when travelling. In addition, Michelin develops high-tech materials for many sectors of activity. Based in Clermont-Ferrand, Michelin has offices in 177 countries, employs 124,760 people and operates 68 tyre factories which together produced around 173 million tyres in 2021 (www.michelin.com).

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