

2018 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)

Arnaud Rémy to take over from Jacques Morelli at the helm of Michelin's rally programmes

The 2018 Rally Argentina was the swansong event for Jacques Morelli as head of Michelin Motorsport's WRC programme after 40 years working for the French tyre manufacturer. On May 1, he will pass the baton to Arnaud Rémy who will have responsibility for all of the Clermont-Ferrand -based firm's rallying activities.

After joining Michelin as a storeman in 1978, Jacques Morelli soon moved to a role in motorsport and, from 1981, held a variety of positions in the motorcycle department, ultimately taking charge of its 125cc, 250cc and 500cc racing activities. In 2002, he switched from two to four wheels when he was appointed manager of the newly-created Customer Competition department in 2003, with responsibility for circuit racing, as well as for the company's national and IRC/ERC rally programmes.

In 2011, Jacques Morelli was tasked with managing Michelin's return to the World Rally Championship. "It goes without saying that I have far too memories of my career to relate them all here," observes **Jacques Morelli**. "I had some great years in motorcycle racing, and then more when the Intercontinental Rally Championship [IRC] was created. Thanks to Eurosport's coverage, we found ourselves in a strong series which included events like the Rallye Monte-Carlo. I think this caught the attention of the WRC world and sparked our return to the sport's premier championship. After four decades at Michelin, I know life is going to be very different for me. I would simply like to wish my successor as much enjoyment as I have had in charge of this exciting programme."


Arnaud Rémy, who has been working closely with Jacques Morelli at WRC level for a number of weeks already, has extensive experience of both Michelin and rallying, too. A qualified chemical engineer, he joined the Michelin Group's Research and Development division in 2001, working on material formulations for automobile tyres. A long-time fan of motorsport, he moved to Michelin Motorsport in 2011 to look after the GT operations of its Customer Competition department. Three years later, his remit was extended to cover the department's rallying activities. From May 1 this year he will head all of Michelin's rally programmes.

Arnaud Rémy's recruitment as head of Michelin's rallying programmes is further evidence of the French firm's longstanding commitment to the sport in which it has long enjoyed close particularly close relationships with manufacturers, teams and drivers, providing tyres and support to competitors at all levels, from grass roots to the FIA WRC. "Having a single experienced and proficient person in charge of all of Michelin's rallying activities will facilitate the creation of synergies between the different levels," notes Michelin Motorsport director **Pascal Couasnon**.



Didier Laurent – didier@autopressclub.com – Phone: +33.6.75.60.50.62

Alessandro Barlozzi – alessandro.barlozzi@michelin.com – Phone: +33.6.42.23.55.93



“I am grateful for Michelin’s confidence,” says **Arnaud Rémy**. “As a long-time fan of motorsport, I am obviously thrilled and proud to have been entrusted with this exciting challenge. I am fortunate to be taking over from Jacques who has put a truly robust operation and team into place. That will be a tremendous asset as I find my marks in the WRC. The decision to establish a single department to cover all of Michelin’s rallying programmes, from the WRC to club level, clearly makes sense and will enable us to take advantage of the synergies it opens up very quickly.”



Didier Laurent – didier@autopressclub.com – Phone: +33.6.75.60.50.62
Alessandro Barlozzi – alessandro.barlozzi@michelin.com – Phone: +33.6.42.23.55.93