

2019 FIA World Rally Championship
Round 13/14: RallyRACC Catalunya – Rally de España

Ott Tänak and Martin Järveoja earn Michelin's 27th Drivers' world title

Second place on the 2019 RallyRACC Catalunya-Rally de España – which Michelin won for the 19th time with Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul (Hyundai i20 Coupé WRC) – sufficed for Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja (Toyota Yaris WRC) to claim the FIA World Rally Championship's Drivers' and Co-Drivers' crowns for the first time. The smartly-paced performance of the 32-year old Estonians was rewarded when they sealed the title by winning the Power Stage which promoted them to second place and earned them sufficient points to settle the chase, aided by their maturity which has flourished during their time with Toyota Gazoo Racing WRT.

As the first non-Frenchman to win the Drivers' championship since 2003, Tänak has stemmed a long sequence of 15 years dominated by Sébastien Loeb (nine titles) and Sébastien Ogier (six).

The 2019 season has seen Tänak and Järveoja showcase their all-round skills with victories on events as contrasting as Sweden, Chile, Argentina, Finland, Germany and Wales, and the same versatility helped them to secure the result they were targeting in Spain where Leg 1 featured gravel stages before a switch to asphalt for Days 2 and 3.

Although Toyota won the Manufacturers' title in 2018, the last crew to claim the Drivers' crown in one of its cars were Frenchmen Didier Auriol and Bernard Occelli in 1994 in a Celica Turbo 4WD which, like today's Yaris WRC, was equipped with Michelin tyres.

"My hearty congratulations to Ott Tänak and Martin Järveoja on winning the 2019 Drivers' and Co-drivers' titles with one round of what has been a particularly close and exciting campaign still to come," said **Arnaud Rémy**, the manager of Michelin's rally programmes. "Their determination, the qualities of their Toyota Yaris WRC and the confidence they had in it during some of the season's more delicate moments thanks to their Michelin tyres were the keys to their success. At the same time, I would like to thank all my team for the first class work they have put in this year, although we can't afford to take our eyes off the ball yet because the fight for the Manufacturers' crown remains to be settled next month in Australia!"

The 2019 Rally de España was won by Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul (Hyundai i20 Coupé WRC), ahead of the newly-crowned champs Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja (Toyota Yaris WRC). Local heroes Dani Sordo/Carlos Del Barrio (Hyundai i20 Coupé WRC) rounded out the weekend's all-Michelin podium.

The WRC2 Pro battle was won by Norwegians Ostberg/Eriksen (Citroën C3 R5), ahead of the Czech Republic's Kópecky/Lhosek (Skoda Fabia R5) and Finns Rovanner/Halttunen (Skoda Fabia R5) who made it a Michelin one-two-three finish in this class, too. Indeed, eight of the top-ten 'R5' finishers were Michelin runners, including the top five.





Michelin's WRC crews were able to choose between the H4 (hard compound) and M6 (medium) versions of the MICHELIN LTX Force for the 2019 RallyRACC Catalunya-Rally de España's gravel stages, and between the H5 (hard) and S6 (soft) versions of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport for the weekend's asphalt tests.

The French firm's partners in the WRC2 Pro and WRC2 classes were able to choose between the H90 (hard) and M80 (medium) versions of the MICHELIN Latitude Cross on dirt and between the RH3 (hard) and RS (soft) versions of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport for the sealed-surface action.

The last round of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship will take teams to the coastal resort of Coffs Harbour in New South Wales for Rally Australia on November 14-17.

