

2018 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)
Round 1: Rallye Monte-Carlo

***Michelin's tyres take challenging Rallye Monte-Carlo
in their stride***

Once again, the Rallye Monte-Carlo lived up to its reputation as one of the toughest and most entertaining rounds of the WRC, and the spectators who flocked to watch its 17 stages in the French Alps and the mountains that tower over the French Riviera were treated to an exceptional show. The event provided a tremendous start to the 2018 championship as the drivers pushed to the limit over the sort of variety of road surfaces that no other rally can offer. The cocktail ranged from warm, bright sunshine to mud, fog, snow and ice and called not only for tyres that were up to the job but also for smart tyre strategies.

To allow crews to contest the season's opener competitively and safely, Michelin brought a choice of four different solutions for the four-day rally, from the new soft and super-soft MICHELIN Pilot Sport S6 and SS6, to the MICHELIN Alpin A41 snow tyre and its studded equivalent, the Pilot Alpin A41 CL. The thing about the Monte Carlo, however, is that the conditions are rarely consistent from the start to the finish of any one stage, which means the roles played by the teams' ice-note crews and Michelin's technical advisers are crucial when it came to selecting the ideal tyre for a given loop of stages.

"Every one of four types of tyre we brought to the 2018 Rallye Monte-Carlo was used at one moment or another," notes **Jacques Morelli**, the manager of Michelin's FIA WRC programme. "The team's respective strategies differed, though, and some drivers even left service with three different types of tyre either on their car or in the boot as spares – up to a maximum of six in total. This shows that our range covered the complete spectrum of conditions and combinations the crews encountered from Thursday evening's start through to today's finish in Mont Carlo."

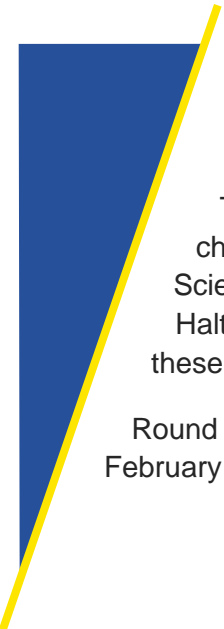
"It's great that the season has started and, this year again, the Rallye Monte-Carlo provided plenty of excitement," adds Michelin Motorsport Director **Pascal Couasnon**. "There were all the ingredients that have helped to forge this rally's unique reputation and the result points to some thrilling competition between the top drivers and cars over the rest of the year."

The 2018 Rallye Monte Carlo was won by M-Sport Ford's Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (Ford Fiesta WRC), ahead of Toyota Yaris WRC pairings Ott Tänak/Martin Jarveoja and Jari-Matti Latvala/Miikka Anttila who made it an all-Michelin podium.



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The WRC2 class was topped by Jan Kopecky/Pavel Dresder (Skoda Fabia R5), chased by Guillaume de Mevius/Louis Louka (Peugeot 208 T16) and Eddie Sciossera/Flavio Zanella (Citroën DS3 R5). The R5 winners were Kalle Rovanperä/Jonne Haltunen in a Skoda Fabia R5. All four of these cars were equipped with Michelin tyres in these two classes which allow free competition between tyre firms.

Round 2 of the 2018 World Rally Championship will take teams to wintry Sweden, on February 15-18.



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