

2020 FIA World Rally Championship
Round 5: Rally Turkey

***The MICHELIN LTX Force H4 and M6 contribute to rough
and rocky Rally Turkey success***

The fifth round of the shortened 2020 FIA World Rally Championship produced an action-filled weekend, with some thrilling battles up and down the field on the gravel tracks in southwest Turkey's Marmaris region where the country's WRC fixture has been based since 2018.

The event ran to a shorter format than in 2019, with just 12 tests (instead of 17) totalling 223 kilometres compared with 310km last year. The pandemic was obviously behind these changes which enabled the rally to go ahead safely, albeit without spectators, either on the stages or in the service area.

As anticipated, the hard-compound MICHELIN LTX Force H4 was the most frequently selected tyre over the three days, but the medium MICHELIN LTX Force M6 formed part of some strategies for the first passes on Saturday and Sunday morning. Michelin Motorsport's WRC tyres stood up to the exceptionally rough going, providing the French firm's WRC partners with the confidence to push where they could.

Meanwhile, Michelin's WRC2 and WRC3 runners were offered a choice between the hard MICHELIN Latitude H90 and medium MICHELIN Latitude Cross M80 which allowed them, too, to take full advantage of the company's rally-tyre range.

"Despite the extremely tough conditions, the rally went pretty well," observes **Arnaud Rémy**, the manager of Michelin's rally programmes. "As the thermometer reached more than 30°C, and with ground temperatures up to 45°C, plus 60°C inside the cockpits, the crews were put to an unpytting test. Thankfully, they were able to count on a choice of competitive, resilient tyres which helped them to push to the limit and put on a great show. Even so, there were a number of problems caused by damaged wheels on Sunday, with the rims acting as 'fuses' in the punishing conditions. We actually saw varying tyre strategies which allowed those who made the most judicious choices at the right moment to pull out a gap. As always, the second passes proved the toughest because of the formation of ruts, and there was the added issue of hanging dust. It was consequently a case of helping the drivers to feel confident at the wheel and we are pleased that our tyres lived up to our partners' expectations once again."

The 2020 Rally Turkey was won by Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin (Toyota Yaris WRC), ahead of Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC) and Sébastien Loeb/Daniel Elena (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC).

The next round of the 2020 FIA World Rally Championship will take teams to Sardinia, Italy, on October 8-11.

