

## ***MICHELIN MASTERS THE TERMAS HEAT AS MARQUEZ DOMINATES***

Michelin took on the demands of the Termas de Rio Hondo track in Argentina today at the Gran Premio Motul de la República Argentina as its MotoGP™ tyres performed strongly in the testing conditions which saw Marc Marquez (Repsol Honda Team) race to an emphatic victory.

The 4,806m Argentinian track has been a challenging circuit for Michelin since coming back to MotoGP in 2016, but this weekend the French company were given the chance to perform in a fully dry event at the Termas de Rio Hondo circuit - for the first time in the four-years since its return - and saw its tyres produce impressive results throughout the weekend, a fact that will give the technicians and designers plenty of data for the future.

Today's forecast was for rain, but this never materialised and actually temperatures rose to the highest recorded throughout the whole weekend, as the thermometer reached 44°C when the race started, making tyre choice for all involved a complex decision as no-one had experienced those conditions during the two preceding days. Marquez got the holeshot and led for the first lap, before extending his lead on lap-two by setting the fastest lap of the race. He continued to increase his advantage with his hard front and soft rear MICHELIN Power Slick tyres, before crossing the finishing line almost 10-seconds in-front of the chasing group. Leading the following pack home was Valentino Rossi (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP), as he got the better of third-placed man Andrea Dovizioso (Mission Winnow Ducati) with a last-lap overtaking manoeuvre, making it a three manufacturer podium. Today's podium was decided following a race-long tussle for the second and third places between a group of seven riders, all using a mixture of compound configurations, as five of the available choices were used during today's intensive race.

In front of a record race-day crowd at Termas de Rio Hondo of 64,086, the position of First Independent Rider went to Jack Miller (Pramac Racing), as he took fourth place, with Alex Rins (Team SUZUKI ECSTAR) in fifth. Danilo Petrucci (Mission Winnow Ducati) was sixth and Takaaki Nakagami (LCR Honda) came home in seventh. Top rookie position went to Fabio Quartararo (Petronas Yamaha SRT) with eighth place, Aleix Espargaro (Aprilia Racing Team Gresini) was ninth and Pol Espargaro (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing) took tenth position and made sure that all five manufacturers finished in the top-ten, again giving proof of Michelin's desire to supply tyres for all teams to use that will give them optimum performance.

Michelin will now make a cross-continent journey as it and MotoGP head from South to North America and the third round of the championship, which will be at the Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Marc Marquez – Repsol Honda Team:**

“This has been one of my best weekends in MotoGP and one of the best Sundays of my MotoGP career, because I managed it in a very good way. I had a solid weekend and I am very happy, because we understood really well the way to work with the tyres and we understood which was the best tyre for us. It looked in the beginning of the race we took a risk with the soft rear, but for me it was the best option for my strategy. I was planning to push from the beginning and open a gap, so I did it and then at the end I managed the tyres really well and I was very happy to take the win.”



## Piero Taramasso – Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager:

“Heading here we knew this was one of the biggest examinations of the tyres in the whole season. We brought a full range of rear symmetric tyres - which was something we hadn’t done at any track before - and we were very pleased with how the whole selection performed all weekend. The Free Practice sessions were all very fast and so was Qualifying and all the tyres showed good consistency. Today with the increase in temperature at the time of the race, there were many decisions made as to the correct compounds, as it was hotter than it had been all weekend, but our technicians worked with the teams and riders to make the best choices for the conditions. It was good to see three manufacturers on the podium, as this again shows we are making tyres that are competitive for all. Now it is time to head to Austin and what promises to be another challenging event on a very demanding track - but we are certainly up to the task!”



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