



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France) – April 13, 2023

## **FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC): Michelin and the 6 Hours of Portimão**

- The weekend of April 14-16 will see the FIA WEC's Michelin-equipped Hypercar and LM GTE Am partners join battle in Portugal's Algarve
- First appearance in Portugal of Michelin's latest Hypercar range which was developed in virtual form, with faster warm-up performance
- Michelin providing the tyres for 25 of the 37 cars entered for the 2023 FIA WEC's second round (11 Hypercars/14 LM GTE Ams)

Round 2 of the 2023 FIA World Endurance Championship takes teams to Portugal's Autodromo Internacional do Algarve which previously hosted FIA WEC action in the form of an eight-hour race in 2021, but in June. Portimão is consequently known territory for the majority of the teams and drivers, especially as many of the newcomers like Ferrari, Peugeot and Porsche have been there for private testing.

The 4.684-kilometre, 15-turn circuit is famously twisty and hilly, with a long straight of almost a kilometre in length which ends in a downhill zone of hard braking. The technically-challenging venue is also tough on tyres.

*"Portimão is a beautifully hilly, old-school circuit," says **Pierre Alves**, the manager of Michelin's endurance racing programmes. "Its width and variety of racing lines facilitate overtaking in many places but, as a package, it can be very hard on tyres. The different types of corner and the long straight generate both high longitudinal constraints, like the heavy braking for Turns 1 and 5, and high lateral forces, especially through the very long Turn 15."*

### **Tyres conceived for faster warm-up performance**

Until the end of last season, drivers were able to leave the pits on tyres pre-heated to 80°C. Warmers are now prohibited in the FIA WEC, so Michelin has developed a new range for the Hypercar prototypes that takes this new parameter into account. *"Our tyres for 2023 warm-up faster, but with no detriment to the performance they delivered last season," adds **Pierre Alves**. "Everything went well at the opening round in Sebring, so we feel confident for Portugal. Okay, the warmer, mid-March Florida weather played in our favour, but Portimão is a track that generates a great deal of energy and spring is already well under way in southern Europe."*



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*"On top of that, the track's asphalt is reputed for being abrasive, which helps tyres to climb in temperature quite quickly. As for our LM GTE Am partners, we plan to work as closely as usual with them to help them to make the very most of their tyres. I think we can look forward to an entertaining weekend of racing."*

After the three free practice sessions, Saturday's action will conclude with qualifying, with the race itself scheduled to kick off at 12-noon local time on Sunday, April 16.

### **About Michelin**

Michelin's ambition is to sustainably improve its customers' mobility. The leader in the mobility sector, Michelin designs, manufactures, and distributes the tires best suited to their requirements and uses as well as services and solutions to improve transport efficacy. Michelin also puts forward offers that allow its customers to enjoy unique moments when traveling. Michelin also develops high-technology equipment intended for multiple fields. Based in Clermont-Ferrand, Michelin is present in 175 countries, employs 132,200 people and operates 67 tire factories that, together, produced approximately 167 million tires in 2022. ([www.michelin.com](http://www.michelin.com)).

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