



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

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TotalEnergies 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps... Last competitive outing for Michelin before Le Mans 2023

- Round 3 of the 2023 FIA World Endurance Championship: a crucial step ahead of the centenary La Mans 24 Hours
- Likely the coolest conditions of the season
- The first visit of Michelin's latest Hypercar range to the sweeping circuit of Spa-Francorchamps

Teams contesting this year's FIA World Endurance Championship have set up camp in Belgium this weekend with two rounds already under their belts, compared with just one in 2022. Barely two weeks ago, Portugal's 6 Hours of Portimão provided them with a chance to gain additional race experience ahead of the 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps which, as usual, and more especially with the higher number of Hypercar entries involved, they will use to prepare for the Le Mans 24 Hours (June 11-12).

Ahead of the French classic's centenary edition, however, they face the unique complexity and demands of the undulating, 7.004-kilometre, 19-turn circuit in the Belgian Ardennes Mountains. Notorious across the world of motor racing, it is known to be hard on tyres. Just prior to the 2022 race, the track was partially resurfaced and its layout revised for safety reasons, but it remains an exceptionally exacting venue which puts significant strain on the drivers, cars and their tyres alike.

While the LM GTE Am runners will compete on 2022-specification slicks and rain tyres, the numerous Hypercars will be provided with Michelin's latest endurance-racing range which was designed to ensure fast warm-up performance following this season's outlawing of tyre-warmers.

*"Like the first tyres we designed for the Hypercars, our new range was developed entirely on the simulator before their use on our partners' cars," says **Pierre Alves**, the manager of Michelin's endurance racing programmes. "Not only did this speed up the process but it facilitated the simulation of the different types of weather we are likely to come across in the course of the season."*



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"Spa-Francorchamps is clearly where we are expecting the season's coolest conditions and the testing we carried out between Sebring and Portimão with track temperatures of around 8°C brought us a significant amount of data and backed up our technical decisions. As usual, our Technical Team Advisors will work closely with our partners in Belgium to help with compound choices and advise on pressures, the aim being for our tyres to reach their working temperature as quickly as possible. Whether hot or cold, they have to cope with big loads around the whole lap. The work carried out on the Eau Rouge Raidillon compression last year eased some of the forces in play, but it is still a big challenge. To contend with the changes between the portions where tyres tend to cool and those where they absorb more energy, our partners will be looking notably for consistency. All told, Spa-Francorchamps is an interesting challenge ahead of Le Mans on several fronts."

Michelin's partners in the bill-topping Hypercar class have an overall package of 30 slicks per car in Belgium, namely 12 for free practice and 18 for qualifying and the race, whereas the LM GTE Am entries will be able to run up to 42 tyres (free practice: 16 / qualifying + race: 26). Michelin will specify two of the three available compounds as a function of the weather.

Following two free practice sessions on Thursday, April 27, then FP3 and qualifying the next day, the 2023 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps is due to start at 12:45pm local time on Saturday, April 29.

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).

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