



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France) – Mai 10, 2023

Home-soil challenge for Michelin in MotoGP's 1,000th race – the SHARK Grand Prix de France

- The MotoGP™ field is Le Mans-bound for Round 5 of the 2023 campaign – the 1,000th grand prix in the world championship's 74-year history
- Michelin Motorsport will bring tyres that match the challenge of the circuit and possible weather, which has the potential to be cold and wet at this time of year
- A home race for Michelin, with 110,000 fans having set a new attendance record there in 2022

MotoGP's SHARK Grand Prix de France will take place from May 12-14 on Le Mans' Bugatti Circuit in the country's Sarthe region. It is the closest race on the calendar to Michelin's base in Clermont-Ferrand and, as such, is regarded as a home' event by the French manufacturer.

Following on from the early-season clashes in Portugal, Argentina, the USA and Spain, the fifth outing of the 2023 series is expected to attract a large crowd. The undulating 4.185km track is narrow in parts, featuring nine right-hand corners and five to the left, with just a single straight – in front of the pits – measuring 674 metres. In order to meet its partners' requirements, Michelin has selected a tyre with a symmetric tread for the front – available in a choice of three compounds – and **Soft** and **Medium** asymmetric options for the rear.

*"The aim of our selection for the French Grand Prix is not only to provide the riders with a high-performance package but also ensure they feel confident over the three days," says **Piero Taramasso**, the manager of Michelin's two-wheel programmes. "The track isn't all that abrasive here, but we have chosen to strengthen the right side of the rear tyres because there are almost twice as many right-hand turns at Le Mans-Bugatti as there are left-handers. In keeping with this year's regulations, only two compounds will be available for the rear. There is always a chance of cold weather at Le Mans at this time of the year, so our Soft MICHELIN Power Slick will be ideal for such a scenario because it works well at low temperatures. The Medium alternative is particularly versatile, especially in warmer weather, so that option will cover the other conditions. This is our home race, so we will obviously be under a little more pressure than usual, but I'm convinced that the 1,000th MotoGP grand prix will be a big success. The grandstands are going to be packed and it's going to be a huge weekend for the fans!"*



MOTORSPORT

Should it rain, Michelin's partners will be able to choose from asymmetric Soft or Medium MICHELIN Power Rain tyres for both front and rear, with – like their MICHELIN Power Slick counterparts – a harder compound on the right.

The weekend will begin on Friday, May 12, with a pair of practice sessions, from which the ten fastest riders will book their place in the second part of qualifying (Q2) the next day. Following the free practice session on Saturday morning, the top two riders from Q1 will similarly progress to the Q2 pole-position shootout, which will determine the starting grid for both of the weekend's races. The Sprint race begins at 3pm local time on Saturday, with the main event – the grand prix itself – getting underway just under 24 hours later at 2pm on Sunday, May 14.

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).

MICHELIN GROUP MEDIA RELATIONS

+33 1 45 66 22 22

7 days a week

www.michelin.com

 [@MichelinPress](https://twitter.com/MichelinPress)