



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Motegi (Japan), September 27, 2023

Motul Grand Prix of Japan

The versatility of the MICHELIN Power Slick MotoGP™ tyres will be the key to success in Motegi

- After discovering the Buddh circuit (India) for the very first time, the riders of the 2023 MotoGP World Championship return to the well-known Motegi circuit (Japan).
- The Michelin Motorsport team completes two races in two weeks at the start of the major Asia-Oceania tour.
- The 14th round of the championship, where records could fall and where the weather could play a key role.

The first Indian race weekend in the history of MotoGP had barely ended when the protagonists of the championship headed to the Japanese archipelago and the megacity of Tokyo. From there, they travelled to the Motegi circuit, two hours from the Japanese capital, in order to quickly get their bearings in a place that is very familiar to them. The 4.801 km 'Twin Ring' of Motegi has hosted MotoGP since 2004, with its four straights, six left turns and eight right turns.

Located in the heart of the Japanese countryside, in a heavily wooded mountainous area, the Motegi circuit (owned by Honda) can see wind, fog and rain, as was largely the case in 2022. For this 2023 edition, the Tochigi prefecture has forecast fairly cool temperatures in the morning (around 15°C), with highs expected of around 27°C for Friday and Saturday and 24°C for the Grand Prix. For most of the 12,000 inhabitants of the town of Motegi, who have experienced events at the circuit since its opening in 1997, this is one they will certainly not want to miss.

*"For the Michelin Motorsport team and our partners, Motegi is a place that we all know well because many tests are held there", commented **Piero Taramasso**, manager of Michelin two-wheel competition. "It's a reasonably demanding track in terms of tyre wear, and one which requires a lot of stability from the front tyre due to the very hard braking areas. With the two banked corners and the repeated hard acceleration, we also need casings that can withstand significant stress, and tyres that offer good traction when exiting the corners. These types of highly versatile tyres are at the core of our MICHELIN Power Slick ranges, and these are tyres that will give riders the confidence to take their motorcycle to the limit. As always, our partners will have three choices of rubber compound for the front and two for the rear, which will be Soft and Medium."*



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"Also, given the greater number of turns to the right, the rear tyres will be asymmetrical, with reinforcement on the right side. In the event of rain, our MICHELIN Power Rain tyres will be available in two options (Soft and Medium for both the front and rear), again with reinforcement on the right side of the rears."

With the constantly improving performance of the motorcycles equipped with Michelin tyres specifically developed for the championship, Michelin Motorsport partners will be keen to set new lap time benchmarks. In 2022, Jack Miller (Ducati Lenovo Team) won the Grand Prix by setting a new race lap record, which dated from 2014. He beat Brad Binder (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing) and Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing) in a dry race which followed a weekend largely disrupted by rain, with only one dry test session. It is in these difficult moments that Michelin tyres make the difference, offering consistent performance and confidence to riders, whatever the conditions.

The weekend program

The Motegi MotoGP activities will begin on Friday 29 September with a first free practice session (45 minutes) scheduled for mid-morning. A second session, this time lasting one hour and counting towards qualification, will take place in the afternoon and this will allow the 10 fastest riders to move directly into Q2 the next day. Saturday will start with a 30-minute free practice session in the morning, followed by Q1 and Q2 qualifying (15 minutes each), followed by the Sprint race (12 laps) in the afternoon. As always, the Grand Prix (24 laps) will take place on Sunday afternoon, after a 10-minute warm-up in the morning. The start of both the Sprint race and the Grand Prix will be at 3 p.m. local time (8 a.m. CET).

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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