



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Motegi (Japan), October 1st, 2023

Motul Grand Prix of Japan
New all-time lap record at Mobility Resort Motegi on MICHELIN Power Slick, and 12 laps of racing in pouring rain on MICHELIN Power Rain tyres

- Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing) took pole position by setting the new all-time circuit lap record at Mobility Resort Motegi in 1'43.198 - six-tenths faster than the previous record of Jorge Lorenzo, which had stood since 2015.
- Jorge Martin dominated the Tissot Sprint by setting fast and consistent lap times, with all riders choosing Hard front and Soft rear tyres.
- Jorge Martin also won a complicated Grand Prix, stopped after 12 laps due to conditions that became extreme - the race started in the rain on slick tyres, followed by bike change and spectacular battles in increasingly heavy rain on MICHELIN Power Rain tyres.

The 14th Grand Prix of the 2023 season took place on the Motegi circuit, two hours from Tokyo (Japan). The Mobility Resort Motegi has hosted MotoGP™ since 1999, with a layout spanning 4.801 km and comprising 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) is regularly affected by unpredictable weather.

During the first part of the weekend it was relatively mild, but temperature changes and the high humidity levels in the air caused the grip on the track to change randomly. The Grand Prix took place in the rain, and was interrupted after 12 laps out of the 24 initially planned, due to excessive standing water on the track.

The two Friday practice sessions took place on a dry and fast track. Brad Binder (KTM Factory Racing) and Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team) both broke the all-time lap record, which was set by Jorge Lorenzo in 2015.

During the night from Friday to Saturday, rain cleaned the track and on Saturday morning the riders found a more slippery surface than that of the day before. Despite this overall reduction in grip, in Q2 Jorge Martin took pole position by establishing a new all-time circuit lap record in 1'43.198 - six-tenths faster than Lorenzo's record from 2015.



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The Tissot Sprint took place on Saturday afternoon over a distance of 12 laps. All riders selected Hard front and Soft rear tyres, which showed their confidence in the consistency of the Michelin compounds. Starting from pole, Jorge Martin maintained a particularly strong pace throughout the race and built a significant gap from his pursuers. Brad Binder was the only rider able to follow the Spaniard, but was 1.4s behind at the chequered flag. Francesco Bagnaia came home third in the Tissot Sprint, 5.3s behind the winner. The tyres were well adapted to the conditions, and the Soft rear was used to 100% of its potential.

Jorge Martin was also the winner of Sunday's Grand Prix, a race greatly complicated by rain. After starting on slick tyres, while the first drops were already falling, the riders returned to the pits to change bikes, to those fitted with rain tyres. Now equipped with MICHELIN Power Rain, they engaged in some great sporting battles... right up until the 12th lap, when the track became unsafe due to standing water levels. With no improvement in conditions, Race Direction then decreed the end of hostilities, and Francesco Bagnaia and Marc Marquez (Repsol Honda Team) finished this shortened race in second and third places respectively.

"Despite the rain on Sunday, it was an overall positive weekend for Michelin, and the riders were able to count on the performance of the Michelin tyres throughout the many changes in grip levels on the track," said **Piero Taramasso** manager of Michelin two-wheel competition. *"With very violent braking, strong acceleration and even banked corners, the Mobility Resort Motegi places particular demands on the tyres, both in terms of casing and rubber compound. Our MICHELIN Power Slick range exceeded expectations and Jorge Martin shattered the all-time lap record from 2015, improving it by six-tenths of a second... even though the track was not at its best level of grip. The Grand Prix itself was affected by rain, which surprised teams and riders just moments before the start. The switch to MICHELIN Power Rain tyres allowed the event to run smoothly until mid-race, when the sharp deterioration in weather conditions prevented the race from continuing."*

The next round of the FIM MotoGP World Championship will take place in Indonesia from 13 to 15 October, at the Pertamina Mandalika International Circuit. It's the first of a three-race series and will be followed by the Guru by Gryfyn Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix (20 to 22 October at the Phillip Island circuit, Australia), and the OR Thailand Grand Prix (27 to 29 October, at the Chang International Circuit, Thailand).

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.



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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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