



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Buriram (Thailand), October 25, 2023

OR Thailand Grand Prix **A reinforced casing for the MICHELIN Power Slick on the Chang International Circuit of Buriram**

- Michelin returns to the Chang International Circuit of Buriram, a unique track for which Michelin will provide specially designed tyres.
- The 17th round of the season, the fifth in a row in Asia-Oceania, and three races in three weeks: Michelin takes up a logistical challenge.
- Reinforced rear tyres to combat the high temperatures generated by the layout of the track.

Arriving in Thailand immediately after Australia and Indonesia, the Michelin Motorsport team faces the logistical challenges of three back-to-back races. However, everyone is happy to return to Buriram, on this modern and special circuit whose infrastructure can accommodate up to 100,000 fans.

The Chang International Circuit is located in the north of the country, almost 500 km from the capital, Bangkok. The MotoGP World Championship has been going there since 2018, but due to the pandemic only three Grands Prix have taken place there - 2018, 2019 and 2022. A test session was also organized there, so the Michelin teams have a sufficiently large amount of data to draw up a technological sketch of the track.

This is a new circuit, inaugurated in 2014, with a length of 4.554 km. The layout is quite balanced, with five left turns, seven right turns, and two straights, the longest of which is one kilometre. It is a circuit which does not generate very high average speeds, however its asphalt and its configuration impose significant constraints on the tyres, particularly on the rear.

*"As part of the 2023 regulations, we have selected two rear compounds instead of three," indicates **Piero Taramasso**, Michelin two-wheel competition manager. "So, in addition to the Soft, Medium and Hard compounds for the front, we have brought Medium and Hard compounds for the rear, with a harder compound on the right side of the tread. We have also reinforced the casing of the rear tyres to control temperature peaks. The air temperature will surely rise above 30°C, which means track temperatures of more than 45°C, but it is above all the layout of the circuit, similar to that of the Red Bull Ring in Austria, which encouraged us to use this particular internal structure for the rear tyres."*



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"The benefit of this technical choice is to provide more stability for the riders when the tyre is subjected to high stresses, on the straights and under hard acceleration. Thus prepared, we are confident that the versatility of the Hard compound and the ultimate performance of the Medium compound will cover all the needs of our partners."

In the event of rain, the MICHELIN Power Rain range will be available in two compounds (Soft and Medium) for the front and rear.

On the Chang International Circuit, the Grand Prix motorcycles will take to the track on Friday 27 October in the morning for a first 45-minute free practice session. A second session, this time one hour long and counting towards qualifying, will take place in the afternoon, and this will allow the 10 fastest riders to move directly into Q2. On Saturday, a 30-minute free practice session in the morning, followed by Q1 and Q2 qualifying (15 minutes each), will precede the 13-lap Tissot Sprint race, which will start at 3 p.m. The Grand Prix (26 laps) will start the next day at the same time, after a 10-minute warm-up session in the morning.

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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