



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France), November 8, 2023

Petronas Grand Prix of Malaysia **A track well-known to Michelin Motorsport, and with new records to set**

- The 18th round of the 2023 MotoGP™ World Championship marks the end of the Asian tour, before the Middle East and the return to Europe.
- The Sepang Circuit is familiar to Michelin Motorsport teams, and can always hold surprises in uncertain weather.
- With just three Grands Prix remaining, the World Champion title is still at stake.

The Sepang International Circuit was designed by German architect Hermann Tilke at the end of the 1990s. It's 5.543 km long, and is made up of five left, and ten right-hand turns. It has two straights, one of which exceeds 900 metres in length. As is often the case in Asia, heat and humidity will be key criteria during the race weekend. In addition, although the asphalt has recently been revised between turns 7 and 12, the level of abrasiveness should remain high around the entire circuit. This abrasive surface, combined with track temperatures that can exceed 50°C, creates a challenge for riders, their machines and of course the tyres. A combination that holds no fears for Michelin's Competition department, since Sepang has become a regular testing base. Each inter-season, MotoGP tests are carried out here in order to validate the improvements made over the previous months, both on the tyres themselves and on their ability to support the latest developments of the motorcycles.

*"Even if we know the place very well, attention is still required," says **Piero Taramasso**, manager of Michelin two-wheel competition. "Sepang is a very complex circuit, where the grip level is good but where humidity always plays an important role. Furthermore, in Asia we are never safe from a storm or torrential rain, and we must be ready to adapt. To meet the requirements of the track, with its mix of slow and fast turns, we will, as always, have a symmetrical front tyres available in three compounds (Soft, Medium and Hard). For the rear we have selected two compounds, Medium and Hard, which will be reinforced on the right side to take into account the greater number of turns in this direction. In the event of rain, our MICHELIN Power Rain range will also be available, in Soft and Medium, with the rear also having a reinforced right side. We will therefore be able to respond to all conditions, and we will stand alongside our partners to support them as best we can throughout this race weekend."*



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Record breaking tyres

In 2022, new benchmarks were set, including the all-time circuit lap record of 1min57.790 by Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing) during Q2. The race duration record was also lowered to 40min14s332, at the end of a Grand Prix won by Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team). While records have been broken at circuits around the world since the start of this 2023 season, Michelin tyres, developed specifically for Grand Prix motorcycles, are indisputable allies in this quest for ultimate performance. Records are made to be broken, but nothing would be possible without cutting-edge technology supporting the talent of the riders.

On the Sepang International Circuit, the Grand Prix motorcycles will enter the track on the morning of Friday 10 November 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 will allow the 10 fastest riders to move directly into Q2. Saturday will start with a 30-minute free practice session in the morning, followed by the Q1 and Q2 qualifying sessions of 15 minutes each, then the 10-lap Sprint race in the afternoon. As always, the 20-lap Grand Prix will take place on Sunday afternoon, following 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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