



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France), March 20, 2024

## ***Grande Prémio Tissot de Portugal*** **Michelin tyres - sources of performance, and innovation for the environment**

- The new MICHELIN Power Slick rubber compounds for the MotoGP™ World Championship arrive in Portugal after an impressive debut at the Lusail circuit in Qatar.
- The 2024 FIM Enel MotoE™ World Championship season starts with new Michelin tyres containing an average of more than 50% sustainable materials; the rear tyre now features a unique tread, with a velvet appearance and a design that evokes sustainable development.
- The grip, stability and consistency of Michelin tyres represent the best combination to establish new records on the Autódromo Internacional do Algarve.

The Grande Prémio Tissot de Portugal takes place, as last year, during the fourth weekend of March. But while in 2023 it was the opening round of the MotoGP World Championship, this time it is the second Grand Prix of the season. Two weeks ago, during the Qatar Airways Grand Prix of Qatar, the 22 MotoGP riders were able to experience the new Michelin Power Slick ranges, the performance of which they had already discovered during testing. The all-time circuit lap record and the race lap record having been beaten, the riders now hope to repeat these feats on the Autódromo Internacional do Algarve, in the light of a motorcycle/tyre combination which has evolved considerably. These new records could be set thanks to the new rubber compounds developed by Michelin engineers.

Situated in a very pleasant natural environment, the Portimão circuit has a length of 4.6 km with 15 turns (nine right-handers and six left), and can accommodate up to 100,000 spectators. The long straight of almost a kilometre, which passes in front of the pits, allows riders to exceed 350 km/h. The undulating nature of the circuit, and in particular the descent towards turn 1, earned it the nickname 'high-speed roller coaster'. The level of grip is considered quite good by the riders, but the weather is always an uncertainty due to the circuit's proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, and so there can be wind or showers. However, whatever the conditions, Michelin tyres will be the solution!

*"This circuit is very technical, with a wide variety of corners and changes of pace, but also with impressive climbs and descents," emphasises **Piero Taramasso**, Michelin Two-Wheel competition manager. "To perform on this type of track, you need a tyres that combine several key qualities such as grip, stability and consistency, and following the excellent results shown by our new compounds during testing and races, we are confident."*



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*"Also, based on the analysis of the data collected here in 2023, we have selected the same types of rubber for this year. Concerning the front, we will provide our partners with three compounds - Soft, Medium and Hard - with a symmetrical tread, and two choices for the rear - Soft and Medium. Given the configuration of the circuit, the Soft tyre will, however, be asymmetrical, with the right shoulder harder than the left. We will thus be able to overcome all the constraints of this demanding circuit."*

In the event of rain, Michelin will also bring its MICHELIN Power Rain range, which here consists of symmetrical Soft and Medium tyres for the front, along with asymmetrical Soft and Medium tyres for the rear, both with a harder right side.

### **First round of the FIM Enel MotoE World Championship**

Michelin has been the sole tyre supplier to the MotoE World Championship since its creation in 2019. It constitutes a real research and development laboratory for the Michelin Group, and allows testing of technological innovations in demanding conditions. This season, the championship will once again consist of 16 races, which will take place over eight MotoGP Grand Prix weekends.

For the 2024 FIM Enel MotoE World Championship season, Michelin is unveiling a new range of tyres that are different from traditional racing tyres. The MICHELIN MotoE tyres which will equip the electric Ducatis this season contain 49% renewable and recycled materials at the front and 53% at the rear, compared to 34% and 52% respectively in 2023.

There is also a new rear tyre design, with tread that features ephemeral patterns with a velvet appearance, designed to fade during the first laps of the circuit. These patterns are reminiscent of the design of the Concept VISION presented in 2017, which is an illustration of Michelin's intended sustainable development model in the tyre sector by 2050.

All these technologies represent an important advance in the field of competition tyres, which in addition to increasing their durability, do not turn their back on performance. Indeed, the first tests carried out on the Portimão circuit in February 2023 enabled us to confirm the potential of these new tyres on the track.

### **Weekend event schedule**

The new format inaugurated in 2023, and in particular the introduction of the Sprint race on Saturday afternoon (half GP distance and half points awarded), is continued for the 2024 season.



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On Friday, MotoE will enter the track first for 15 minutes of testing, then the first free practice sessions for MotoGP will take place for 45 minutes at the end of the morning. In the afternoon a new session of MotoE testing will precede an hour of MotoGP testing, during which the 10 fastest riders will qualify directly for the second phase of qualifying, which will take place the next day.

At the end of the day, the two MotoE qualifying practice sessions will be held in two 10-minute periods, and these will round off the day's action on the track.

Saturday will start with 30 minutes of free practice for MotoGP, then the first qualifying session (15 min) will allow the two fastest to join the 10 riders already qualified in Q2. This final session (also 15 minutes) will determine the places on the starting grid for the entire weekend.

The races will then take place between 12:15 p.m. and 4:10 p.m.: first the MotoE race (7 laps), then the MotoGP Sprint race (12 laps), and finally the second round of the weekend for MotoE.

The start of the Grand Prix (25 laps) will be on Sunday at 2 p.m. local time.

### **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](http://www.michelin.com)).

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