



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium), Mai 12, 2024

## ***TotalEnergies 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps*** **World-class endurance racing's Hypercar prototypes** **aided by MICHELIN Pilot Sport tyre range in Belgium**

- The new coloured sidewalls of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport range developed for the FIA WEC's Hypercars enabled spectators at Spa-Francorchamps to monitor which compounds each prototype was running at any given moment.
- The drivers were able to rise to the Belgian circuit's unique challenges while double-stinting their tyres and keeping up a strong pace thanks to the versatility of their medium- and soft-compound Michelin slicks.
- Exceptionally mild weather produced higher temperatures than those recorded in 2023, while rain was totally absent over the three days for the first time in 10 years.

Round 3 of the 2024 FIA World Endurance Championship took Michelin and its partners – all competing in the headlining Hypercar class – to Spa-Francorchamps, an infamous 7.004-kilometre, 19-turn roller-coaster ride that provides Michelin Motorsport with an annual litmus test of its Pilot Sport slicks' grip and performance. In 2023, exceptionally, it was agreed that Michelin could bring all three of its options to Belgium's Ardennes Mountains in order to establish which were the best match for the new hybrid prototypes. The conclusion was clear-cut and, this time around, the French firm provided the teams with its soft- and medium-compounds.

*"After analysis of the data we collected in 2023, it was immediately apparent which compounds we would bring this year," notes **Pierre Alves**, manager of Michelin's endurance-racing programmes. "Our overriding priority being driver safety, we favoured fast warm-up performance over any concern for wear as the race progressed. The way the race unfolded suggests this was the best way to go, since degradation wasn't really an issue, despite Spa-Francorchamps' specific challenge. As early as the opening free-practice runs, some of our partner teams decided to double-stint their rear tyres and triple-stint their fronts."*

The three-days of track action enabled spectators to benefit from the tyres' new colour-coded sidewalls which showed which cars were running which compound at any given moment, with white indicating the soft option and yellow the medium.

The crowd was even able to enjoy temperatures more than 20°C on race day, and rain stayed away for the entire meeting for the first time in 10 years! Meanwhile,



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track temperatures reached as high as 34°C, compared with a maximum of 12°C in 2023!

*"It turned out to be a weekend of pleasant surprises," observes **Pierre Alves**. "As it progressed, our partners were able to rule out the least attractive tyre-related scenarios. The drivers had been a little concerned about possible degradation, but they soon saw the benefits and versatility of our medium and soft slicks. These compounds needed less than a lap to climb to their working temperature which made it possible to envisage various strategies. Some teams even considered triple-stinting their rears, which is quite exceptional given the high aerodynamic loads tyres must cope with here, particularly the rear-left. As the race progressed, we were able to see that our selection was a plus for the drivers who were able to take advantage of their tyres' consistency to push lap after lap, stint after stint."*

The overall allocation for Michelin's Hypercar partners at Spa-Francorchamps was 30 slicks: 12 for free practice, plus 18 for qualifying and the race. This year's TotalEnergies 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps was halted several times following some spectacular accidents. An hour-and-forty-four minutes - the duration of a red-flag interruption - were added to the duration of the race which was ultimately won by William Stevens/Callum Ilott. The crew of #12 Hertz Jota Porsche 963 was joined on the podium by Porsche Penske Motorsport's Kevin Estre/André Lotterer/Laurens Vanthoor (#6 Porsche 963 and Antonio Fuoco/Miguel Molina/Nicklas Nielsen (#50 Ferrari AF Corse 499P).

The next round of the 2024 FIA World Endurance Championship will be the 92nd Le Mans 24 Hours in France, on June 15-16.

### **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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