



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France), May 22, 2024

Gran Premi Monster Energy de Catalunya **MotoGP™ and MotoE™ come together for a weekend dedicated to performance**

- Following the success of the Michelin® Grand Prix de France, the MotoGP riders return to the Catalan classic at the Barcelona-Catalunya circuit.
- The 2024 Gran Premi Monster Energy de Catalunya is likely to encounter relatively high air and track temperatures.
- The 5th and 6th rounds of the FIM ENEL MotoE World Championship will take place in Barcelone with Michelin tyres made from more than 50 % renewable and recycled material, which also features an ephemeral tread design.

The Barcelona-Catalunya circuit is relatively new, having been built in 1991 in preparation for the 1992 Summer Olympics. It has been used on numerous occasions for a variety of non-motorised sports (such as cycle races), but has hosted MotoGP every year since 1996. The 2023 edition allowed us to break previous records: Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team) established the new all-time circuit lap record during the second qualifying phase, in 1'38.639, while Aleix Espargaro (Aprilia Racing) beat the maximum speed record, with 356.4 km/h.

Considering the number of records broken since the start of the year with Michelin's new rubber compounds, it seems obvious that the riders will be keen to try to set new benchmarks. However, this year the Grand Prix returns to its usual place on the calendar in spring, at the beginning of June, instead of at the beginning of September last season. This will bring some changes, particularly in terms of air and ground temperatures, although the weather is still usually mild in Catalunya at this time of year.

The circuit has a length of 4.627 km, with six left turns and eight right, along with a straight of 1,047 m. It is a track that allows very high speeds to be reached, while its generous width of 12 m allows the riders to fully express themselves and attempt overtaking in many places.

*"The level of stiffness of the tyres for this weekend is very close to what we had here last year," says **Piero Taramasso**, Michelin two-wheel competition manager. "As usual, we have three symmetrical front tyre compounds (Soft, Medium and Hard), and we have selected asymmetrical Soft and Medium compounds for the rear, with a harder right shoulder."*



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"The Barcelona circuit is very demanding and should not be underestimated. Often, temperatures are high, and this phenomenon coupled with the demands of the circuit make the race difficult to prepare for. However, we know the track well and we have complete confidence in the tyres we will bring. These tyres combined with the 2024 bikes should give a very high level of performance throughout the weekend. However, while the circuit was resurfaced in 2018, we noticed over the years that grip was decreasing, to the point that it has become very low. The asphalt is so smooth that motorcycles can spin their rear wheels when accelerating in a straight line. As a result, the riders will have to choose their tyres carefully, and also work on the traction control and anti-slip of their motorcycles. The calibration of these rider aids will be essential. We are nevertheless convinced that our MICHELIN Power Slick ranges will be able to meet the challenges that lie ahead of us, even if the phenomenon of slippage will be an important point to monitor in order to preserve the performance of the tyres over time."

In the event of rain, the MICHELIN Power Rain range will be offered in Soft and Medium compounds for the front and rear. The latter are asymmetrical, with a harder right side, like their slick counterparts.

A harder front tyre for the third round of the FIM ENEL MotoE™ World Championship

The electric motorcycles supplied by Ducati since the start of last season have spent much time lapping the Barcelona-Catalunya circuit. Before the 2023 races, they had previously participated in three days of official testing at the circuit, and data collected back then revealed a need for harder rubber at the front. *"Generally speaking, we only have one front tyre for the entire season, and the architecture of our MotoE tyres does not change from one circuit to another,"* explains **Piero Taramasso**. *"However, the configuration of the Barcelona track is an exception, and like last year we believe that a compound with more grip at the front is necessary. It is about the level of performance and also the safety of the riders, a point on which we never compromise. The level of performance and spectacle of MotoE is getting higher and higher, and we must support this evolution."*

This year the electric motorcycles of the FIM Enel MotoE World Championship are all equipped with Michelin tyres containing 53% renewable and recycled materials at the rear, and 49% at the front (compared to 52% and 34% respectively last year). In addition, the rear tyre is distinguished by a particular tread design, with ephemeral patterns and a velvet appearance that fade during the first laps.



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Michelin considers renewable and recycled materials to be biosourced or recycled elements that are neutral for the environment. Like all the championships in which it is involved, Michelin uses MotoE as a laboratory for its future technologies. The objective being to be able to integrate them partially or entirely into the next generations of competition and mass-produced tyres. Michelin intends to develop increasingly durable tyres for everyone, without forgetting the spectacular and cutting-edge elements of the technologies put on the track.

At the Barcelona-Catalunya circuit, the action will begin on Friday 24 May at 8:30 a.m. (local time) with the first MotoE test session. Then it will be the turn of MotoGP from 10:45 a.m. with Test 1 (45 min). MotoE will return to the track for 15 minutes at 12:25 p.m., before a second MotoGP session will be held between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., this time qualifying and allowing the fastest 10 riders to progress directly to Q2. Then we will continue with the two MotoE qualifying sessions (ten minutes each) to close the day. The next day, after Free Practice, MotoGP qualifying will take place in two sequences, between 10:50 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. The fastest two riders from Q1 will qualify for Q2, making 12 riders in total. The first MotoE race (7 laps) will take place at 12:15 p.m., then it will be the MotoGP Sprint race (12 laps) at 3:00 p.m. The day will end with the second round of MotoE, again over 7 laps, this time at 4:10 p.m. Finally, the start of the 24-lap MotoGP Grand Prix will take place on Sunday 26 May at 2:00 p.m.

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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