



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Spielberg (Austria), August 14, 2024

## **Motorrad Grand Prix von Österreich Specific MICHELIN Power Slick tyres for the Red Bull Ring**

- Two weeks after the Monster Energy British Grand Prix at Silverstone (United Kingdom), the MotoGP™ World Championship riders will arrive at the Red Bull Ring - Spielberg circuit, surrounded by mountains.
- Michelin will supply harder compound front tyres in order to respond to the technical developments of the motorcycles, and like last year, the rear tyres use a reinforced internal structure to better control the thermal flows on this 'Stop and Go' circuit.
- FIM ENEL MotoE™ World Championship: high-performance electric motorcycles, equipped with Michelin tyres containing a high percentage of sustainable materials, continue to provide an exciting show.

The Motorrad Grand Prix von Österreich is the 11th race of the season, and is the start of the second half of the championship which will focus on Europe and Asia, with a foray into Australia. After the rather cool but dry weather at Silverstone, the championship riders will return to Austrian soil with its much higher temperatures. Known for being a very demanding circuit, the Red Bull Ring - Spielberg circuit is built in a beautiful natural environment, surrounded by mountains. Its length of 4.318 km is punctuated by just three left turns and seven right turns, but its complexity lies in its impressive climbs and descents (65 m of elevation change), as well as the three straights that generate violent acceleration and braking forces. To compensate for this atypical situation in the season, as in 2023 Michelin Motorsport will bring rear tyres to Austria with a reinforced structure. For the front tyres, they are evolving towards harder compounds in order to respond to the technical developments and enhanced dynamic performance of the Grand Prix motorcycles.

*"Consistent performance is a key criteria for us," says **Piero Taramasso**, Michelin's two-wheel racing manager. "When we find something that works, we stick with it over time because riders need to be able to consistently reproduce their performance. This is the case with the reinforced rear tyres, which worked very well here last year and will do the job very well again this year. However, when we analyse the data we share with our partners, and when we examine the track and any changes, we regularly make adjustments. Since the start of the season, we have clearly seen that riders have broken many records with the help of our tyres, and this also means that their bikes have made progress."*



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*"As Spielberg is a 'Stop and Go' circuit where the traction requirements when exiting corners are very high and where braking is very violent, the riders have an increasing need to load the front end during the braking phases. This is why we have reviewed our choice of the three types of front compound (Soft, Medium and Hard), and decided on an upward shift in terms of hardness. We are convinced that these technical choices will provide more ease and control in all situations, even the most extreme."*

For the Motorrad Grand Prix von Österreich, the three front rubber compounds (Soft, Medium, Hard) available to Michelin's partners will be symmetrical, and asymmetric for the two rears (Soft and Medium). The latter benefiting from a reinforced rubber on the right side of the tread, given the greater number of turns on this side.

Apart from the tyres in the slick range, in case of rain Michelin will offer its MICHELIN Power Rain in Soft and Medium compounds for both the front and rear.

### **Records to beat**

In 2023, three new records were set in Spielberg with the contribution of Michelin tyres: Marco Bezzecchi (Mooney VR46 Racing Team) set the new all time circuit lap record in 1'28.533; with a speed of 315.7 km/h, Enea Bastianini (Ducati Lenovo Team) became the fastest rider on the track; and finally, it was Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team) who set the fastest race lap in 1'29.840. Benchmarks that Michelin's partners will no doubt try to improve on again this year.

The Motorrad Grand Prix von Österreich festivities will begin on Friday 16 August with a test session in the middle of the morning. Then a second session, scheduled for the afternoon, will allow the 10 fastest riders to directly access the second phase of qualifying (Q2). After a final free practice session on Saturday morning, Q1 will allow two additional riders to progress to Q2 in order to determine the starting grid for the weekend. The start of the 14-lap Sprint race will be at 15:00 on Saturday, and the 28-lap Grand Prix is scheduled for the following day at 14:00.

### **13th and 14th rounds of the FIM ENEL MotoE World Championship™**

A source of new records in the category since the beginning of the season, the electric motorcycles developed by Ducati with Michelin tyres are tackling their penultimate circuit of the season (the finale will take place in Misano, Italy on 6 and 7 September).



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In Spielberg, the 18 riders from 9 teams will ride motorcycles with environmentally friendly tyres that incorporate 49% renewable and recycled materials at the front, and 53% at the rear (compared to 34% and 52% respectively in 2023).

This season, innovation has also been introduced in the design of the rear tyre, whose tread features ephemeral velvet-like patterns that fade away during the first few laps.

Michelin considers this avant-garde championship to be a real research and development laboratory. The French manufacturer wants to apply all or part of the technologies tested in MotoE to its MotoGP tyres, and also to its mass-produced tyres in the coming years.

The entire MotoE program will take place between Friday (practice sessions and qualifying) and Saturday, when the two 7-lap races will take place either side of the MotoGP Sprint race.

### **About Michelin**

Michelin is building a world-leading manufacturer of life-changing composites and experiences. Pioneering engineered materials for more than 130 years, Michelin is uniquely positioned to make decisive contributions to human progress and to a more sustainable world.

Drawing on its deep know-how in polymer composites, Michelin is constantly innovating to manufacture high-quality tires and components for critical applications in demanding fields as varied as mobility, construction, aeronautics, low-carbon energies, and healthcare.

The care placed in its products and deep customer knowledge inspire Michelin to offer the finest experiences. This spans from providing data- and AIbased connected solutions for professional fleets to recommending outstanding restaurants and hotels curated by the MICHELIN Guide.

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