



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Alcañiz (Spain), September 1st, 2024,

Gran Premio GoPro de Aragón **Michelin makes a winning return to the Alcañiz circuit**

- Michelin and its partners started from scratch on a circuit where the asphalt was completely replaced during 2023.
- Michelin tyres were perfectly adapted to the performance of the 2024 motorcycles and the track conditions, following a two-year absence in this region of Spain.
- A 'closed' track surface, which creates higher tyre temperatures, and Michelin tyres that offered controlled performance for the race duration.

The grey, hot and sometimes humid weather did not disrupt the performance of the Michelin tyre ranges in the latest round of the MotoGP™ World Championship, and neither did the brand-new asphalt of the circuit, which forced the Michelin teams and its partners to virtually start from scratch in their evaluation work.

MotoGP has not raced at Aragon since 2022, but prior to this the Circuito de Alcañiz was a regular on the calendar. Opened in 2009, it hosted its first motorcycle Grand Prix in 2010. The 5.077 km circuit runs in an anti-clockwise direction and has 10 left-hand turns, 7 right-hand turns and two straights - the longest of which is 968 m, and this allows the bikes to flirt with 350 km/h top speeds. But above all it was the nature of the new asphalt and the dirt present on the track surface that surprised the Michelin Motorsport team most.

*"We have never seen a European circuit where the temperature of the tyres rises so quickly," says **Piero Taramasso**, manager of Michelin two-wheel competition. "By inspecting the track on foot, we were able to see the 'closed' and very smooth nature of the asphalt, and understand the origin of this thermal behaviour. Such a surface, unusual in the MotoGP calendar, generates a lot of heat when in contact with the rubber and prevents any ventilation that could cool it. This phenomenon is even stronger at the rear, because it also involves transmitting the power of the motorcycles to the ground, which releases additional energy. If we add to that the fairly significant differences in the air and track temperatures between the tests and the races, in addition to heavy rain that washed the track during the night, we get complex conditions to master, which did not help our partners find the best settings. As at every Grand Prix where the asphalt is new, we fortunately brought three different rear rubber compounds (instead of the usual two) in order to allow our partners to identify the best performance windows of the different options. For the front, we quickly saw that the Medium would be the best choice for the whole weekend."*



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"While for the rear, the Soft compound was perfect for the time attack and the Sprint race, but it was the Medium that had to be selected for the Grand Prix."

For the Gran Premio GoPro de Aragón, Michelin Motorsport made Soft, Medium and Hard rubber compounds available to its partners. These were symmetrical for the front, and asymmetric for the rear, with the left shoulder reinforced in order to respond to the greater number of turns on this side.

In the first Sprint race in MotoGP history at Motorland Aragon on Saturday afternoon, Marc Marquez (Gresini Racing) won, ahead of Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing) in second place and Pedro Acosta (Red Bull GASGAS tech 3) in third. The same trio completed an identical podium in the Grand Prix the following day.

During this intense racing weekend, Marc Marquez also set a new all time circuit lap record of 1'45.801, beating the previous best time of 1'46.069 set in 2022 by Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team).

The next round of the MotoGP World Championship, the Gran Premio Red Bull di San Marino e della Riviera di Rimini, will take place from 6 to 8 September at the Misano circuit (Italy).

Misano will also host the final two rounds of the FIM ENEL MotoE™ World Championship on the same weekend, with electric motorcycles equipped with Michelin tyres that incorporate 53% sustainable materials at the rear, and 49% at the front.

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 AI-based connected solutions for professional fleets to recommending outstanding restaurants and hotels curated by the MICHELIN Guide. (www.michelin.com)




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