



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Zallaq (Bahrain), November 2, 2024

BAPCO Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain
An entertaining conclusion to the 2024 FIA World Endurance Championship, with the MICHELIN Pilot Sport range at the heart of the action once again

- Michelin's medium- and hard-compound Pilot Sport slicks perform strongly during the various phases of the BAPCO Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain.
- The 2024 FIA WEC Drivers' title goes to André Lotterer/Kevin Estre/Laurens, while victory for the #8 Toyota GR010 Hybrid saw the Japanese carmaker clinch the Manufacturers' crown.
- Michelin takes its score in world-class endurance racing to 24 premier-class FIA WEC Drivers' and Manufacturers' titles (12 each).

The last round of the 2024 FIA World Endurance Championship took teams to Sakhir International Circuit in Bahrain where the eight-hour fixture was essentially split into two distinct phases. The first six hours were marked by a relatively stable order, while the last two hours produced numerous position changes in addition to several Safety Car interruptions.

The BAPCO Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain was eventually won by Sébastien Buemi/Brendon Hartley/Ryo Hirakawa (#8 GR010 Hybrid) whose victory settled the fight for the 2024 Manufacturers' crown in favour of Toyota. The Drivers' crown was claimed by the #6 Porsche 963 trio André Lotterer, Kevin Estre and Laurens Vanthoor.

The air and track temperatures stood at 32°C and 43°C respectively when the race kicked off at 2pm local time on Saturday, November 2. That was a little cooler than expected and prompted different approaches to tyre strategy.

In addition to its notoriously abrasive track surface, Sakhir's five left turns and ten right-handers tend to put the Hypercars' left tyres to the biggest test, while the asphalt's sandy coating heightens the challenge faced by the rears. The teams consequently chose to replace the most worn tyres after every stint.

The track temperature began to dip at the race's midpoint, at around sunset, and ultimately fell to 28°C at the chequered flag, leading the teams to alternate between the medium and hard MICHELIN Pilot Sports to optimize performance as the conditions evolved.



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This was the second time that the current MICHELIN Pilot Sport range successfully showcased its potential in Bahrain.

*"We were treated to an interesting race, with plenty of overtaking and entertainment," reported **Pierre Alves**, the manager of Michelin's endurance racing programmes. "With both the Drivers' and Manufacturers' crowns still up for grabs, there was clearly everything to play for, so the teams needed to get all their calls spot-on. We saw them vary their tyre strategies, combining the compounds at their disposal and alternating between part-worn and fresh covers to fine-tune their cars' handling as the race unfolded. We were very pleased with the performance and longevity of our slicks. For instance, the #5 Porsche 963 ran the same front-right tyre for 92 laps [497km]. I would obviously like to congratulate André Lotterer, Kevin Estre, Laurens Vanthoor and our partner Toyota on winning their respective world titles."*

The 2025 FIA World Endurance Championship will begin with the traditional pre-season Prologue in Qatar on February 21-22, followed by the opening round on February 28.

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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