



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Lusail (Qatar), March 1, 2025

A Perfectly Managed Season Opener for Michelin at the 1,812 km of Qatar

- The 13th season of the FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) kicked off with an intense 1,812 km race (within a 10-hour limit), where Michelin's men and women played a crucial role.
- MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tires, exclusively equipping all 18 Hypercar-class prototypes, delivered outstanding performance despite lower-than-expected temperatures.
- Endurance and consistency were the key factors in this fast-paced race, where tire strategy played a pivotal role.

After two days of Prologue testing on February 21-22, the season officially got underway on Friday, February 28, with the 1,812 km of Qatar. The event began under unusually cool conditions, but by the 2:00 PM local time start, the weather had become slightly more favorable. Michelin Motorsport's sensors recorded an ambient temperature of 23°C and track temperatures of 34°C, though strong winds continued to sweep across the circuit. As the hours passed, the track temperature gradually dropped, yet the MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tires adapted seamlessly.

At the start, teams employed diverse tire strategies: some opted for four Hard compound tires, while others mixed Hard tires on the left (the most demanding side of the track) with Mediums on the right. However, after about three hours of racing, most teams switched to the Hard/Medium combination as track temperatures continued to fall. During this period, Michelin's engineers thoroughly analyzed the tires used in the early stints, confirming the expected mileage potential.

While Michelin Motorsport teams were familiar with the Doha circuit, the two-hour later start time altered the balance between daytime and nighttime racing conditions, adding an extra layer of complexity.

"A race of this magnitude as a season opener—the longest after Le Mans—is a major challenge!" said **Pierre Alves**, Michelin's Endurance Program Manager. *"However, the data collected during testing, combined with our extensive database, enabled us to effectively support our partners. While double stints were a safe choice early in the race, as time progressed, some teams needed to push for triple stints on the same set of tires. This strategy allowed our partners to save valuable seconds during pit stops and benefit from shorter tire warm-up times. Success also hinged on properly managing tire warm-up phases after a change."*



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"Fortunately, everything went smoothly, and drivers were able to rely on the consistent performance of our tires. Even after multiple stints, lap times remained as competitive in the final laps as they were in the opening ones!"

For the 1,812 km of Qatar, each Hypercar was allocated 12 tires for practice and 32 tires for qualifying and the race. All teams ran MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tires in sizes 29/71-18 at the front and 34/71-18 at the rear, ensuring a wider contact patch at the rear for optimal grip and stability.

The 2025 edition of the 1,812 km of Qatar was won by the Ferrari 499P #50 (Ferrari AF Corse), driven by Antonio Fuoco, Miguel Molina, and Nicklas Nielsen. The Ferrari 499P #83, piloted by Robert Kubica, Yifei Ye, and Philip Hanson, secured second place, while the Ferrari 499P #51 of Alessandro Pier Guidi, James Calado, and Antonio Giovinazzi completed the podium.

Antonio Giovinazzi also clinched pole position with a blistering lap time of 1'38"359, nearly a full second faster than Matt Campbell's 2024 pole time (1'39"154) in the Porsche 963.

The second round of the FIA WEC Championship will take place in Italy from April 18 to 20, featuring the 6 Hours of Imola.

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.

Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 175 countries and employs 129,800 people.



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