



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Buriram (Thailand), March 2, 2025

## ***PT Grand Prix of Thailand*** **A Season Opener Under Extreme Conditions**

- An intense, unprecedented, and unexpected heatwave put both riders and machines to the test, pushing tires to their limits.
- Anticipating these extreme conditions, Michelin Motorsport brought reinforced tires to Thailand, essential for the scorching heat of Buriram.
- Traction control proved to be the riders' best ally in managing the race and minimizing excessive wheel spin on this demanding circuit.

*"This is the first time we've encountered such conditions in Buriram!" exclaimed **Piero Taramasso**, Michelin's two-wheel competition manager. "Never before we recorded 60°C on the Thai track. In such an inferno, and given the rear tire wear measured after the Tissot Sprint, we were right to confirm the allocation of reinforced tires, which we had already introduced here last year. Thanks to their increased resistance, riders managed the race without major difficulties. Traction control played a key role in this season-opening Grand Prix. Despite the stifling heat and its constraints, lap times remained close to those of 2024, and Marc Marquez even set a new record, whereas last year's conditions were much more favorable. Overall, it's a very positive result."*

Normally part of the Asia-Oceania tour of the championship between September and November, the Thailand Grand Prix was moved to the season opener this year, according to the schedule approved by Dorna Sports. The weather was expected to be similar to autumn conditions, with limited risks. However, an intense heatwave disrupted expectations, pushing temperatures to 37°C in the air and 62°C on the asphalt. This posed a formidable challenge for riders, teams, and machinery, subjecting brakes and tires to extreme strain.

The Buriram circuit is already known for its complexity. With five left turns, seven right turns, and two long straights, including a one-kilometer stretch, it continuously challenges rear tires, often causing excessive wheel spin. Proper traction control settings are crucial to prevent tire overheating, which could lead to a loss of grip and premature wear.

For the 2025 Thailand Grand Prix, Michelin's partners had three symmetric tire compounds (Soft, Medium, and Hard) for the front wheel. For the rear, they had two options: Soft or Medium, with an asymmetric tread pattern. The MICHELIN Power Slick Hard front tire, along with both rear options, featured a stiffer internal structure.



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During Saturday's late-morning Qualifying sessions, contested on asphalt heated to 60°C, riders used MICHELIN Power Slick Soft tires. Marc Marquez (Ducati Lenovo Team) secured pole position with a time of 1'28.782, closely matching the all-time record at Chang International Circuit (1'28.700). In Q2, Raul Fernandez (Trackhouse MotoGP Team) hit a record speed of 341.7 km/h, a performance matched by Pedro Acosta (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing) during the Tissot Sprint.

The Tissot Sprint, held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, saw Marc Marquez lead all 13 laps from start to finish, crossing the line ahead of his brother Alex (BK8 Gresini Racing MotoGP) and Francesco Bagnaia (Ducati Lenovo Team).

The Thailand Grand Prix, held at 3:00 PM on Sunday, unfolded under stifling heat (35°C in the air, 50°C on the track). Marc Marquez maintained his lead at the start, closely followed by Alex Marquez and Francesco Bagnaia. He widened the gap by setting the race lap record (1'30.637) on lap four. On lap seven, he handed the lead to his brother Alex and closely followed him until four laps from the end, when he reclaimed first place to maintain it until the checkered flag. He finished ahead of Alex Marquez and Francesco Bagnaia, delivering a spectacular show for the nearly 100,000 passionate spectators at Chang International Circuit.

The next round of the 2025 MotoGP season, the Gran Premio de la República Argentina, will take place at the Termas de Río Hondo circuit from March 14 to 16.

### **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.



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

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