



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France), May 6, 2025

TotalEnergies 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps **Michelin reaffirms its tyre strategy for the Hypercar class**

- After Qatar and Italy, Belgium hosts the third round of the FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC), at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit.
- Following the resurfacing of approximately 50% of the track, Michelin conducted highly conclusive tests, prompting the Motorsport department to approve the Soft and Medium compounds for this event, as in 2024.
- This track generates the highest tyre load of the season, particularly on the left rear during the passage through Turn 4, "Eau Rouge".

After the first two rounds, held respectively in Qatar at the end of February and in Imola (Italy) in mid-April, the FIA World Endurance Championship contenders head this week to the Spa-Francorchamps circuit. This eagerly awaited venue raised a few questions among the Michelin Motorsport teams, as since the 2024 edition of the race, around half of the track has been resurfaced—approximately 3.5 km out of the total 7.004 km, comprising 19 turns.

In 2022, the "Ardennes Rollercoaster" had already undergone partial resurfacing and upgrades to improve safety. Nevertheless, it remains one of the most demanding and unpredictable circuits, due to its layout, geographic location, and the often-changing weather. During testing aimed at identifying the optimal tyre package, Michelin benefited from unexpectedly hot conditions (up to 35°C on the ground), allowing the French manufacturer's engineers to work across a wide temperature range and observe the benefits of the new surface.

"The resurfacing of a large part of the track is beneficial for lap times and overall performance," said **Pierre Alves**, Endurance Program Manager at Michelin Motorsport. *"We were able to test in 'extreme' conditions and saw not only a clear improvement in lap times, but also better consistency from our tyres. To be certain of our choices, we tested all three of our compounds on track, and concluded that the Soft and Medium mixes would be best suited for the event, especially in cooler temperatures. Spa-Francorchamps, a circuit we know well, is the second fastest on the calendar after Le Mans (with average speeds between 198 and 200 km/h), and it causes significant tyre wear, particularly in sectors 2 and 3. The left rear tyre endures the highest load of the season (1.2 tons) during the compression at the bottom of the Eau Rouge Raidillon."*



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"Moreover, Spa is a very 'energy-intensive' track for tyres, with eight high-speed corners, as well as slow sections and long straights that cause heat loss. That's why the Soft compound, which reaches operating temperature almost instantly, and the Medium compound, praised by all our partners for its versatility and lasting performance, will be ideal for this challenge. We couldn't have hoped for better preparation ahead of the 24 Hours of Le Mans."

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport Soft and Medium, specifically developed to meet the performance and endurance demands of the Hypercar category, will be easy to identify. The Soft features white sidewalls, while the Medium has yellow sidewalls.

Michelin's partners (eight manufacturers, 18 cars) will each have a total of 30 tyres available for the entire event: 12 for practice sessions and 18 for qualifying and the race. The 10 cars qualifying for the Hyperpole session will be allocated 4 additional tyres, which will later be collected by Michelin (and reused for private testing). For the TotalEnergies 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps, MICHELIN Pilot Sport tyres with Medium compound will be used.

The schedule includes two practice sessions on Thursday, May 8 (at 11:30 and 16:30), followed by a third session on Friday morning (at 11:00), before qualifying in the afternoon (between 15:25 and 16:00). The race will start at 14:00 on Saturday, May 10.

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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