



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Paris (France), September 26, 2025,

## ***FIA World Endurance Championship*** **100 FIA WEC Races: Michelin, the unrivalled technology partner in World Endurance Racing**

The 2025 6 Hours of Fuji mark a historic milestone: the 100th race of the FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC), founded in 2012 by the Automobile Club de l'Ouest (ACO) and the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA). Since the very first season, Michelin has been a committed partner of world Endurance racing—an unwavering engagement that embodies the brand's DNA: long lasting performance, constant innovation, and environmental responsibility.

### **Michelin, an inseparable partner of World Endurance Racing**

Since the creation of the FIA WEC, all the major manufacturers—Aston Martin, Alpine, BMW, Cadillac, Ferrari, Lamborghini, Peugeot, Porsche, and more—have trusted Michelin tires to tackle the unique challenges of Endurance racing, benefitting from their unique balance of performance, longevity, and versatility.

Across the 100 races held on the most demanding circuits around the globe, Michelin has supported every technological evolution: from LMP1 cars powered by gasoline, diesel, and hybrid engines, to the new LMH and LMDh Hypercars, and even the futuristic hydrogen-powered H24 prototype—always delivering tires perfectly adapted to the specific demands of each generation of race car.

Michelin's record in Endurance speaks for itself, with a 28th consecutive victory claimed at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 2025.

### **A Trajectory of Innovation Serving Sport and Mobility**

- **2012–2013: The FIA WEC is born, Michelin sets the standard for long lasting performance**

The FIA WEC was launched in 2012, inheriting the legacy of the Intercontinental Le Mans Cup. From the very start, under open technical regulations, Michelin was chosen by teams across all four categories, particularly the top-class LMP1 prototypes. Michelin supplied them with tires capable of covering more than 750 km and completing five consecutive stints at the 24 Hours of Le Mans—regardless of the car's engine type.



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From the very first seasons, Audi's victories and Toyota's arrival showcased the consistency and reliability of Michelin tires, able to withstand unprecedented aerodynamic loads and ever-increasing power levels.

- **2014: A dimensional revolution and the arrival of the MICHELIN Hybrid tire**

Determined to reduce fossil material use and energy consumption, Michelin introduced smaller, lighter tires for LMP1 cars (31/71-18 "square" instead of 37/71-18 at the rear and 36/71-18 at the front), with no compromise on performance or durability. This breakthrough was made possible by unprecedented work on materials and structures.

Above all, Michelin unveiled at Le Mans the MICHELIN Hybrid tire, known as the "intermediate slick," capable of running on wet or drying tracks. This innovation directly paved the way for the MICHELIN CrossClimate all-season tire, which went on to become a best-seller on the road and has now reached its third generation.

- **2015: Radical concepts, innovative solutions**

After developing ultra-narrow tires (just 10 cm wide) for the Nissan DeltaWing prototype, Michelin rose to another challenge with the Nissan GT-R LM Nismo, a front-engine, front-wheel-drive car. Its unprecedented weight distribution required asymmetrical tires: 31/71-18 at the front and 20/71-16 at the rear—further proof of Michelin engineers' adaptability.

- **2018–2019: Super Seasons and Mission H24**

The FIA WEC switched to a "Super Season" spanning two calendar years. Michelin seized the opportunity to reinvest in LMP2, developing a new range ready to meet competition head-on.

More importantly, 2018 marked the official launch of the Mission H24 project, dedicated to bringing hydrogen power to Endurance racing. Michelin became the exclusive tire partner of this energy revolution, once again demonstrating its pioneering role in driving a carbon-free mobility future.

- **2021: The Hypercar era and convergence with IMSA**

The Hypercar category replaced LMP1. First Toyota, then Peugeot, Ferrari, Porsche, Cadillac, Lamborghini, and others entered this new era. The ACO and FIA appointed Michelin as exclusive supplier.



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For this new category, divided into LMH and LMDh, Michelin delivered new tire dimensions: wider rears (34/71-18) and narrower fronts (29/71-18). Except for Peugeot Sport, which kept the 31/71-18 “square” configuration, all teams adopted the new specifications, consistent with rules allowing electric motors on the front axle above certain speed thresholds.

The Hypercar regulations also marked the beginning of technological convergence with the American IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship, with shared tire specifications for Hypercar (WEC) and GTP (IMSA).

That same year, Michelin also developed “demonstrator” tires for the hydrogen-powered H24, already containing 46% renewable and recycled materials.

- **2023: The digital revolution—Tires Designed 100% on simulator**

The 2023 season saw a wave of new manufacturers arrive (Ferrari, Porsche, Cadillac, Vanwall), further strengthening Michelin’s central role as the benchmark technology partner.

That year, Michelin achieved a historic milestone with a new tire range developed entirely using digital simulation—specifically its proprietary Tametire model, the only software capable of accurately reproducing the effects of temperature on tires.

Since then, Hypercar prototypes have been equipped with slicks containing 30% renewable and recycled materials and a universal wet-weather tire made of 45%, designed to perform in all track conditions.

The same year, regulations evolved to ban tire pre-heating systems. Every wheel change now requires an on-track warm-up phase, whose duration varies depending on the circuit and tire specification used.

- **2024: A new visual identity, 71% sustainable materials, and optimized logistics**

Michelin redesigned its tire sidewalls, replacing small dots with colored bands to make specifications easier to distinguish. The Soft compound now features a white band, Medium yellow, Hard red, and blue for wet tires.

In 2024, Michelin unveiled a demonstration tire for the Mission H24 Evo, made of 71% renewable and recycled materials.



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On the operational side, Michelin further reduced its carbon footprint by streamlining race logistics: better stock management, reusing tires after qualifying, and limiting road transport.

- **2025: The 100th race and a historic palmares**

The grid expanded again with Aston Martin joining the Hypercar class. With the British marque, Michelin now partners with eight manufacturers: Alpine, Aston Martin, BMW, Cadillac, Ferrari, Peugeot, Porsche, and Toyota. Through the FIA WEC, Michelin further deepens its technical collaboration with manufacturers, including in the OEM market. This technology transfer is embodied both in shared development tools—such as simulation—and in product innovations.

With the 100th FIA WEC race at Fuji and a 28th consecutive win at the 24 Hours of Le Mans, Michelin cements its status as the master of Endurance racing.

This season also marks the final development phase of the upcoming MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance 2026 range, created through an innovative process alternating real-world testing in Europe and the U.S. with digital simulation.

- **2026: A new generation of sustainable, circular tires**

With over 50% renewable and recycled materials, the new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance 2026 range represents a major technological leap. Built with new development and manufacturing processes, the range will debut in January 2026 at Daytona International Speedway for the opening round of the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship.

Featuring the ephemeral “Race to Vision” tread design to highlight Michelin’s sustainable advances, the new tires will also deliver increased longevity—especially the Medium compound—and faster warm-up.

The wet-weather range will also be renewed during 2026. In addition to a higher share of renewable and recycled materials, it will be more effective in all conditions, from fully wet to drying asphalt.

The new MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance 2026 range is another step toward Michelin’s 2050 objective: 100% sustainable production.

The 2026 season will also see Michelin launch a recycling program for used FIA WEC tires, turning them into recovered carbon black through pyrolysis—a further step toward full tire circularity, the Group’s ultimate goal.



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### **Matthieu Bonardel, Michelin Motorsport Director**

*"This 100th FIA WEC race is much more than just a symbolic number. It is proof of the vitality of a discipline that embodies all of Michelin's values: the pursuit of lasting performance, continuous innovation, and respect for the environment.*

*Since 2012, we have supported every manufacturer and every technological evolution with the same level of commitment: to guarantee safety, consistency, and performance from the first lap to the last.*

*Endurance racing is both a remarkable laboratory and an unparalleled accelerator of innovation. All the technological breakthroughs achieved by Michelin in the FIA WEC today find their way into road tires.*

*In our vision, Michelin also plays a unifying role, driving the entire industry toward ecological transition. Motorsport can only be considered sustainable if it accelerates the arrival of sustainable technological innovations on the market.*

*With the upcoming MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance 2026 range, integrating 50% renewable and recycled materials, and designed with a circular approach, we are taking a decisive step forward. We are proving that technological excellence and environmental responsibility are not contradictory, but complementary.*

*Endurance means racing long. For Michelin, it also means racing far—toward a future where mobility will be sustainable, high-performing, and responsible."*

### **Michelin: Master of Endurance and driver of technological transition**

Over the course of 100 FIA WEC races, Michelin has demonstrated unique expertise: delivering tires capable of sustaining multiple high-performance stints, with outstanding consistency and safety, while integrating an ever-increasing share of renewable and recycled materials.

This commitment reflects the Group's "All Sustainable" strategy, which targets 40% renewable and recycled materials by 2030 and 100% by 2050 across all Michelin production.

With this 100th race, Michelin reaffirms its status as a global benchmark in Endurance racing and as an indispensable technological partner for manufacturers. It is a shared story that continues to be written—from track to road—in the service of safer, more sustainable, and ever more innovative mobility.



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### **Key statistics on Michelin in FIA WEC**

Michelin has achieved victories in all FIA WEC categories: LMP1 (66 wins), LMP2 (9), LMGTE Pro (73), LMGTE Am (78), and Hypercar (33).

Until 2021, all categories were open to tire competition. Since then, Michelin has been chosen by the ACO and FIA as the exclusive supplier for the Hypercar class.

In the premier category, Michelin has powered 54 drivers and 7 manufacturers to victory, across 14 different vehicle models between LMP1 and Hypercar. Toyota alone has claimed nearly half of the wins (48). The Toyota TS050 Hybrid (LMP1) and GR010 Hybrid (Hypercar) share the record with 19 wins each.

Sébastien Buemi stands as the most successful driver, with over one-quarter of all races won (26 victories), ahead of Brendon Hartley (23) and Mike Conway (18).

The trio McNish/Kristensen/Capello secured the very first FIA WEC win at the 2012 12 Hours of Sebring, while Buemi/Davidson/Nakajima delivered Michelin's 50th victory at the 2017 6 Hours of Bahrain.

### **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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