

Sakir (Bahrain), November 8, 2025

BAPCO ENERGIES 8 Hours of Bahrain
MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyre ranges at the heart of a winning strategy

- The final round of the 2025 FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) ended with victory for the Toyota GR010 Hybrid #7 driven by Nyck de Vries, Mike Conway and Kamui Kobayashi.
- The eight-hour race, run from daytime into night, allowed the Hypercar teams to take full advantage of the excellence and consistency of Michelin's Endurance tyre ranges.
- Alessandro Pier Guidi, James Calado and Antonio Giovinazzi (Ferrari 499P #51) are crowned FIA WEC World Endurance Drivers' Champions, while Ferrari AF Corse wins the Manufacturers' World Championship. Michelin secures its 13th consecutive world title in FIA WEC.

The final race of the season promised to be wide open, with major stakes. At the 2 p.m. start (noon in Central Europe), several teams were still in the hunt for both the Drivers' and Manufacturers' titles. On the grid, all 18 Hypercar prototypes were fitted with Michelin Hard-compound tyres, except for the two leading Toyotas, which opted for Medium tyres on the less-stressed front-right corner. With ambient temperatures at 31°C and track temperature at 40°C, the Hard compound was ideal on the rear axle to ensure consistent performance over long stints, resisting heat and supporting the cars' maximum power repeatedly on a demanding track.

The 5.412 km Sakhir circuit features seven left-hand and eight right-hand turns, with heavy braking zones and strong acceleration out of corners. To unleash the cars' full mechanical potential, the tyres must withstand these extreme loads while accounting for both ambient heat and each driver's style.

Roughly three hours after the start, the 495 floodlight pylons illuminating the track at night were switched on. Their activation also symbolised the beginning of the most delicate strategic phase from a tyre standpoint. Teams now had to determine the ideal moment to switch permanently to Medium compounds, as the cooling track surface entered a downward temperature trend. Depending on each team's race plan, some had already fitted one or more yellow-sidewall MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance Medium tyres during a pit stop, although most cars were still relying on the consistent performance of the red-sidewall Hard tyres.

*"Our different tyre ranges have their own characteristics, yet there are of course broad overlaps in their operating windows," explains **Pierre Alves**, Michelin Endurance Program Manager. "As the track cooled, it became essential to identify the right moment—between 33°C and 30°C track temperature—to move from the Hard compound, stable and high-performing over long stints, to the Medium tyres, which reach their optimal operating temperature more quickly and offer greater versatility as conditions evolve.*

"Between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., track temperature dropped by nearly 15°C, which demanded real adaptability. Our tyres are designed for this type of scenario, and our teams were able to rely on our Trackside Technical Advisors to fine-tune their decisions. These choices are always delicate, because they translate directly into lap time. Today everything worked perfectly and the tyre strategies allowed the show to remain at its highest level right to the chequered flag."

The 2025 edition of the BAPCO ENERGIES 8 Hours of Bahrain was won by Nyck de Vries, Mike Conway and Kamui Kobayashi (Toyota GR010 Hybrid #7). They finished ahead of teammates Sébastien Buemi, Brendon Hartley and Ryo Hirakawa in the Toyota GR010 Hybrid #8. Nicklas Nielsen, Antonio Fuoco and Miguel Molina completed the podium in their Ferrari 499P #50.

In the other Ferrari 499P entered by AF Corse, Alessandro Pier Guidi, James Calado and Antonio Giovinazzi finished just off the podium. This result was enough to crown the trio 2025 FIA WEC World Endurance Drivers' Champions, while Ferrari AF Corse secured the Manufacturers' title. As the official tyre supplier to the FIA WEC since its creation in 2012, Michelin thus celebrates its 13th consecutive world championship title.

The 14th FIA World Endurance Championship season will open on 28 March 2026 with the Qatar 1812 km. On that occasion, a brand-new generation of MICHELIN Pilot Sport Endurance tyres will take to the track, featuring a compound made with 50% renewable and recycled materials. This milestone places responsible performance at the core of a strong strategy combining sporting excellence with environmental commitments.

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. (www.michelin.com).

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