

Michelin introduces MICHELIN PILOT, The high-performance tire for piston and turboprop aircraft

Michelin is launching a high-performance bias tire, the MICHELIN PILOT, a tire designed for propeller-driven aircraft to provide extra-long tire life, exceptional tread life and all-weather protection.

Commenting on the launch, Robert Sevener, global lead for Michelin general aviation tires said: “The Michelin Pilot offers state-of-the-art features for piston and turbo-prop applications, and reflects Michelin’s proven history of developing ultra-high-performance tires.” He added: “Our customers want a deep tread to achieve more landings and a lighter tire to improve fuel efficiency and increase range. The new Pilot tire provides both in this aircraft sector.”

The Michelin Pilot is designed to have extra-long tire life as a result of an improved carcass construction that delivers increased durability and improved resistance to foreign object damage. The tire incorporates the latest high-technology ozone-resistant compounds into the sidewall rubber. The natural contour-mold profile promotes casing equilibrium for improved footprint-pressure distribution in the contact patch. By significantly improving overall tire life, pilots may achieve more take-offs and landings while purchasing fewer tires.

Designed with additional belt plies that strengthen the crown area, the Michelin Pilot helps deliver improved wear and exceptional tread life. The tire’s exclusive manufacturing process creates built-in balance for smooth taxiing and even tire wear, helping to provide true-track taxi, take-offs and landings for propeller-driven aircraft.

The Michelin Pilot tire, crafted with highly-durable rubber compounds, has up to 21 per cent deeper skid depth. A natural contour carcass line reduces ply stresses and the tubeless-tire design reduces the combined tire-wheel weight and helps eliminate tire creep (the tendency of a tire to move around the wheel hub at touchdown). This high-performance bias tire can also be used with a tube, delivering the same enhanced performance to pilots who use tube-type rims.

Long-term ozone and UV light protection incorporated into the tire provides all-weather protection. The two wide grooves in the tire tread evacuate water efficiently on wet runways, and promote excellent resistance to hydroplaning for safer operations in wet-weather conditions.

The Michelin Pilot is currently available in two sizes for the United States, Canada and Europe: 15x6.00-6 6/160 and 5.00-5 6/160. Three additional sizes will be available later in 2018, with the sixth size targeted for 2019. To learn more about aviation tires, visit aircraft.michelin.com

Michelin, the leading tire company, is dedicated to enhancing its clients’ mobility, sustainably; designing and distributing the most suitable tires, services and solutions for its clients’ needs; providing digital services, maps and guides to help enrich trips and travels and make them unique experiences; and developing high-technology materials that serve the mobility industry. Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 171 countries, has more than 114,000 employees and operates 70 production facilities in 17 countries which together produced around 190 million tires in 2017. (www.michelin.com)