

2017 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)
Round 11: RallyRACC Catalunya – Rally de España

***Mission accomplished for Michelin's WRC rubber at the
2017 RallyRACC Catalunya-Rally de España***

The 2017 RallyRACC Catalunya-Rally de España (October 5-8) saw Kris Meeke and Paul Nagle collect the weekend's win in their Citroën C3 WRC, while second and third places respectively for M-Sport team-mates Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia and Ott Tanak/Martin Jarveoja (Ford Fiesta WRC) made it an all-Michelin podium.

Again based in Salou, south of Barcelona, this year's RallyRACC Catalunya-Rally de España was the 2017 WRC calendar's only mixed-surface fixture and, true to tradition, featured a package of gravel stages on Friday followed by asphalt action on Saturday and Sunday.

With a total length of 1,297.62km, including 312.03km divided into 19 special stages, its format was practically identical to that of the 2016 event when Sébastien Ogier and Julien Ingrassia sewed up last season's Drivers' and Co-drivers' titles competing in the colours of Volkswagen Motorsport.


This time round, Michelin's WRC partners had a choice of MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5 and S5 asphalt tyres, and MICHELIN LTX Force H4 and S5 gravel tyres, while their WRC2 colleagues were able to choose between the MICHELIN Pilot Sport RH3 and RS (asphalt) and the MICHELIN Latitude Cross H90 and S80 (gravel). Once again, this range covered all the different types of conditions encountered over the weekend while also providing Michelin's partner crews with a competitive combination of performance, durability and safety.

"I would like to congratulate Kris Meeke on his second win of the 2017 championship," said **Jacques Morelli**, the manager of Michelin's FIA WRC programme. "Maybe his visit to us in Clermont-Ferrand a few days ago, when he drove his Citroën C3 WRC on a course set up around our factories, brought him luck! Because of its hallmark mixed-surface format, the RallyRACC Catalunya-Rally de España always represents a unique challenge and our partners invariably face some difficult tyre choices, so it was interesting to see that a variety of strategies functioned well on the gravel tests of Day 1 when our soft- [S5] and hard-compound [H4] tyres both rose to the occasion. For the asphalt stages, the MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5's outstanding versatility made it the most popular choice this year. The fact that rallying uses roads that are open to the public all-year-long makes it a sport that calls for tyres and technology that cover a particularly broad spectrum of needs, just like everyday motoring. On events like the Rallye Monte-Carlo, the Tour de Corse-Rallye de France, Rallye Deutschland and here in Spain, not only are our products capable of covering all the conditions that competitors can expect but they also allow us to collect invaluable data that we use to develop Michelin road tyres."



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The weekend's WRC2 battle was won by Finns Teemu Suninen/Mikko Markkula (Ford Fiesta R5), ahead of Jan Kopecky/Pavel Dresler (Skoda Fabia R5) from the Czech Republic who lost ground behind a slower car on the opening day. Third place for Mexico's Benito Guerra and his Spanish co-driver Daniel Cué (Skoda Fabia R5) made it an all-Michelin top-three in this class, too.



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