

**2017 FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC)
FIA WEC Prologue – Autodromo Nazionale di Monza (Italy)**

***Michelin and its partners pleased with ELMS and
FIA WEC Prologue tests at Monza***

The official pre-season European Le Mans Series test on March 28-29 was followed by this year's FIA WEC Prologue which brought the 2017 World Endurance Championship's runners to Autodromo Nazionale di Monza on April 1-2. With the calendars of both competitions due to kick off at Silverstone, United Kingdom, on April 15-16, the profile of the Italian venue enabled them to collect valuable data and information in readiness for this year's series, including for Le Mans whose fast top speeds, high cornering speeds, heavy braking and need for high downforce are replicated to a certain extent at Monza.


The ELMS test went well for Michelin, especially in the LM P2 class where its tyres posted the fastest lap of the week (1m36.461s) thanks to Olivier Pla in the IDEC Sport Racing-run Ligier JS P2 17. This weekend's FIA WEC Prologue then enabled Michelin and its LM P1 and LM GTE Pro partners to evaluate the firm's latest endurance racing tyres across a wide spectrum of conditions.

Saturday's early dry weather provided the **LM P1** teams with an opportunity to try both the **SOFT** and **MEDIUM** compounds, while an evening shower enabled them to fit Michelin's **WET** and **Full WET** tyres. Sunday morning's drying track then gave them a chance to fit their respective cars with the **MICHELIN Hybrid**, an intermediate slick. Meanwhile, in **LM GTE Pro**, Ferrari, Ford and Porsche all ran the **MEDIUM** compound before switching to **WET**s for Saturday evening's session.

"We are very pleased with the information we brought back from the FIA WEC Prologue," says **Jérôme Mondain**, the manager of Michelin's endurance racing programmes. "There isn't a WEC round at Monza, but it's a good place to test because its profile and features are highly relevant. Thanks to the different types of weather we faced, we were able to work on the temperature windows of our different tyres, as well as on the set-up of the cars. It was also interesting to evaluate the performance of our latest endurance racing tyres with all our partner teams on the same track at the same time. The results are highly encouraging in terms of our tyres' outright performance, consistency and longevity."

The new solutions Michelin tested at Monza were designed to cater for an important new regulation that will apply to the FIA WEC for 2017, namely a reduction from six to four in the number of sets of tyres that the LM P1 and LM GTE Pro teams will be able to run in qualifying and the races at six-hour meetings, with no waivers. At the same time, the use of RFID tags to allow tyres choices to be displayed on screens from June's Le Mans 24 Hours (following a trial of the system at Spa-Francorchamps) has led Michelin to revise the official appellations of its tyres (namely SOFT, MEDIUM and HARD).





“We’re now looking forward to the 6 Hours of Silverstone in a fortnight’s time,” concludes **Jérôme Mondain**. “That’s where we will find out the real value of our work, not only at FIA WEC level but also in the ELMS where we want to show the quality and competitiveness of our LM P2 tyres. If a FIA WEC team in this class wants to race our tyres, we will take the opportunity into consideration.”

Silverstone (United Kingdom) will host the opening rounds of the 2017 ELMS and 2017 FIA WEC on Saturday, April 15, and Sunday, April 16, respectively.

