

***Michelin Motorsport to join forces with Panis-Barthez Compétition for both the 2016 ELMS and June's Le Mans 24 Hours***

Michelin Motorsport and Panis-Barthez Compétition are to be partners in this year's European Le Mans Series (ELMS) which visits some of the continent's finest and most challenging circuits. Michelin Motorsport will provide the tyres for the new team's Ligier JS P2, not only for the ELMS but also for the 2016 Le Mans 24 Hours.

**Olivier Panis (Team Principal):** "Our decision to race with Michelin Motorsport fits with Panis-Barthez Compétition's desire to showcase French industry. I worked on the development of Michelin's Formula 1 tyres, so I know the company and its staff well. I have always admired their approach to motorsport and the way they put their weight fully behind their partner teams. I would like to thank them for their confidence and I am thrilled to have them on-board with us this season."

**Fabien Barthez (Driver, N°23 Ligier JS P2):** "It's great to be joining forces with a French company whose tyres are reputed for delivering outstanding performance. As a driver, it will be a new experience to work on a development programme with a partner like Michelin. It's going to be an exciting technical and human challenge. I can't wait to get started."

**Jérôme Mondain (Manager, Michelin Motorsport's endurance racing programmes):** "Michelin Motorsport is delighted to be working with Panis-Barthez Compétition from the very start of its history. Choosing the right partners is crucial for Michelin, especially in such a fiercely competitive arena as the LM P2 class in the ELMS and at Le Mans which permits open competition between tyre firms. We know the ability of the staff that Panis-Barthez Compétition has recruited and we are confident that they will be a force to be reckoned with, even in their first season. Michelin Motorsport will provide Panis-Barthez Compétition's Ligier JS P2-Nissan with our latest-generation LM P2 endurance racing tyres. Our engineering team worked hard on their performance and longevity over the winter break. In addition to the sporting stakes, competing alongside quality partners allows us to collect data that can then be dialled into our future road tyres. Our work with Panis-Barthez Compétition fits perfectly with this development process."

**About Michelin Motorsport**

Motorsport has been part of Michelin's DNA ever since the company's origins. Through its involvement in the world's most demanding disciplines and championships, on four wheels and two, the French group has developed a long list of important innovations. These new technologies have gone on to contribute to improving Michelin road tyres so that they can be of benefit to motorists and motorcyclists the world over. This unique, prestigious heritage mirrors the passion for racing and rallying that drives all the men and women who work for Michelin Motorsport.

More specifically, in the world of endurance racing, Michelin tyres won the 2015 Le Mans 24 Hours and have now gone unbeaten in the famous French race since 1998. Thanks to the performance, consistency and longevity of Michelin's solutions, its LM P1 prototype partner teams can now complete more than 50 laps of the full Le Mans circuit – equivalent to more than 700 kilometres – on a single set of tyres.

