

2014 FIA World Rally Championship
Coates Hire Rally Australia

OGIER and MICHELIN win at Rally Australia **1-2-3 for Michelin partner Volkswagen seals the 2014 Manufacturers' title**

The 2014 Rally Australia has been won by Sébastien OGIER / Julien INGRASSIA (VOLKSWAGEN POLO R WRC) with his team mates Jari-Matti LATVALA / Miikka ANTTILA (VOLKSWAGEN POLO R WRC) and Andreas MIKKELSEN / Ola FLOENE (VOLKSWAGEN POLO R WRC) sharing the podium with them.

For MICHELIN Motorsport's partner Volkswagen, it was their first clean sweep in WRC and it secured the highly coveted Manufacturers' Championship.

While Ogier and his co-driver Ingrassia won 11 of the 20 Special Stages run during the event, they claimed victory over their team mates by just 6.8 seconds.

All WRC teams this weekend ran the MICHELIN Motorsport-developed MICHELIN LTX Force gravel tyre that made its competitive debut on the 2014 Rally Finland. There they used just the 'softer' version of the tyre, the S4. In Australia they also ran the H4.

During the development of this new tyre, the aim of MICHELIN Motorsport's engineers was to maintain the high level of strength of the MICHELIN Latitude Cross, which made its final appearance on late-June's Rally Poland, while at the same time delivering enhanced consistency and more even wear across the tread to ensure lasting performance over long competitive sections.

The performance improvements made to the tyre have been achieved due to two major technological evolutions:

- 1) **Construction.** Modifications to the new tyre's shoulders favour a more even spread of the load across a bigger contact patch. This new construction resists both abrasion and damage to the tread's outer blocks.
- 2) **New compound.** The new compound used for the tread of the 'soft' S4 version of the MICHELIN LTX Force is more resistant to heat build-up.

The MICHELIN LTX Force tyres for the Coates Hire Rally Australia:

Size: 205/65R15 (17/65-15)
Width: 205mm
Sidewall height: 133mm
Diameter: 15 inches
Tread pattern: asymmetric and directional (a left- and a right-hand side tyre)
Weight: 16.4kg
Use: non-sealed surfaces

MICHELIN LTX Force 'H4': hard-wearing, aggressive surfaces, dry conditions, temperatures over 15°C
MICHELIN LTX Force 'S4': smooth gravel, wet or damp, temperatures up to 15°C

The next round of the FIA World Rally Championship is Rallye de France-Alsace (3 - 5 October, 2014).

For more information please visit www.michelinmotorsport.com

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