

FIA World Rally Championship 2014
Lotos 71st Rally Poland

Another successful mission for the MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross S2

The Lotos Rally Poland celebrated its return to the FIA WRC with several surprises, from fickle weather and a record spectator turn-out in Poland and Lithuania, to the cancellation of two of Thursday's stages due to crowd numbers and deteriorating conditions, plus a dramatic shootout on the stages.

The stages themselves – some of which were entirely or partially new – featured two distinct types of surface which promised some excellent battling between Michelin's partner teams. And that's exactly what they delivered, since less than 25 seconds covered the provisional top three after 13 of the event's 24 tests!

Stage profiles ranged from the relatively unaggressive tests in the Masurian Lake District, near host-town Mikolajki (more than 200km north of Warsaw) to the similarly fast tracks in Lithuania which were covered in a softer dirt that was also more abrasive. Competitors consequently needed a versatile yet competitive tyre which also delivered grip and strength, and the MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross S2 filled that role to the letter.

Jacques MORELLI, manager of MICHELIN's rally programmes: "The soft-compound LATITUDE Cross S2 was perfectly suited to this event. The temperatures were milder than we had been expecting so our partners didn't need to use our hard-compound alternative, and the surface tended to be quite slippery. Our tyres combined performance with safety since the 35 cars which used our products were able to reach top speeds similar to those associated with Rally Finland, i.e. around 200kph, and average speeds were even higher than in Finland on occasions. The robustness and durability of our tyres were decisive, especially since the first attempts at the stages contested twice often saw sharp stones become unearthed and ruts cut out for the second passes. Robert KUBICA provided a good illustration of the potential of the MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross S2 when he completed all of SS15 without air in his rear-left tyre and only dropped 24.9 seconds in all, of which 15 of which were due to the lack of pressure."

Andreas MIKKELSEN reached an average speed of 136.88kph in his VOLKSWAGEN Polo R WRC on SS9 (Wieliczki) on Friday afternoon, which is a record for the German make since its return to the World Rally Championship. That sort of speed is rarely seen in the sport and is the fastest recorded since the start of the 2014 season.

The 2014 Lotos Rally Poland was won by Sébastien OGIER / Julien INGRASSIA in their VOLKSWAGEN Polo R WRC, ahead of team-mates Andreas MIKKELSEN / Ola FLOENE and Thierry NEUVILLE / Nicolas GILSOUL (HYUNDAI i20 WRC).

For this rally, each driver was able to use a maximum of 28 tyres (total distance: 1,671km / total competitive distance: 360km) from a total allocation of 28 MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross S2s (including four for shakedown) and 16 H2s, the hard-compound alternative.

Michelin also provided the tyres for the 11 cars contesting the JWRC which exclusively features Citroën DS3 R3s.

Michelin and the seventh round of the 2014 World Rally Championship:

- Total number of tyres available: 1,300 (including 350 for the JWRC)



- A staff of 14:
 - o 1 manager
 - o 3 technical advisors
 - o 9 fitters
 - o 1 press officer

The MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross tyres for the FIA WRC

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 LATITUDE Cross 'H2': hard-wearing, aggressive surfaces, dry conditions, temperatures over 15°C

MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross 'S2': smooth gravel, wet or damp, temperatures up to 15° C

MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross 'H2': Mexico, Portugal, Italy, Australia and Spain

MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross 'S2': Argentina, Poland, Finland and Great Britain

The next round of the FIA World Rally Championship is Rally Finland (July 30-August 3, 2014).