

MICHELIN Le Mans tyres carry Drayson to world record

Following the announcement earlier this month of a strategic partnership between Drayson Racing Technologies and MICHELIN, Lord Drayson was successful in his bid to break the World Electric Land Speed Record for a car under 1,000kg by posting an average of 204.185mph over two runs completed within one hour.

At the weekend, MICHELIN's LM P1 tyres helped Audi to victory in the 90th Le Mans 24 hour race and last night the same tyres carried Drayson Racing's electric race car to a new electric land speed record.

The Drayson B12 69/EV electric Le Mans Prototype smashed the previous 175mph record, which had stood for 40 years, by 29.2mph. The record-breaking run took place at Elvington Airfield near York last night.

The MICHELIN tyres used by Drayson Racing were confidential-specification LM P1 tyres which have been developed for the sustained high speeds encountered in endurance racing and were designed in association with world-class endurance racing teams such as Audi and Toyota. The sizes were 33/68-18 front and 37/71-18 rear.

The tyre design chosen for the record attempt offered performance characteristics optimised for the conditions of the challenge and followed MICHELIN's Total Performance ethos by managing to combine these often conflicting requirements.

They needed to offer high traction levels to enable the car to accelerate to maximum speed as quickly as possible; good stability to enable the car to safely run with minimal down-force; and excellent braking performance to ensure the car could be stopped safely before the end of the runway.

This isn't the first record for an electric vehicle fitted with MICHELIN tyres. In 1899 La Jamais Contente broke the 100km/h barrier fitted with the Company's pneumatic tyres when most cars were still running on solid tyres.

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