

2018 FIA World Rally Championship
Round 3/14: Rally Guanajuato Mexico

***The MICHELIN LTX Force H4 and MICHELIN LTX Force M6
deliver in Mexico heat***

The 2019 Rally Guanajuato Mexico was marked by scorching heat which made it one of the hottest in recent years. Air and ground temperatures in the Leon region, northwest of Mexico City, soared to more than 30°C and 40°C respectively, and the heat even affected some of the higher-altitude stages. The conditions proved exceptionally punishing for the crews and cars alike, as well as for their tyres, yet the latter took the punishment in their stride to deliver an exceptional performance that allowed the drivers to put this parameter to the back of their minds and push from start to finish.

After the WRC's wintry fixtures in Monte Carlo and Sweden, Rally Mexico was the 2019 campaign's first gravel round and, while the hard-compound MICHELIN LTX Force H4 and medium M6 have already had to cope with a broad spectrum of challenging conditions, this was their first taste of such high temperatures and altitudes, with some of the action taking place at close to 3,000 metres above sea level.

"It looks like Rally Mexico will go down as the hottest round of the 2019 championship," says **Arnaud Rémy**, the manager of Michelin's rally programmes. "But our tyres stood up well to the harsh treatment. The medium-compound MICHELIN LTX Force M6 proved extremely versatile and was even chosen by certain crews for their second attempts at some stages. It provided the drivers with superior grip and traction in the difficult, rutted conditions, while the presence big stones on the racing line was an additional challenge. In all of this, our partners were able to benefit from tyres that combined high performance with resilience and safety."

The 2019 Rally Mexico, which featured 21 stages totalling 313.87 kilometres and an overall distance of 1,003.49km, was won by Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (Citroën C3 WRC). The French pair was joined on the podium by Ott Tänak/Martin Järveoja (2nd, Toyota Yaris WRC) and Elfyn Evans/Scott Martin (3rd, Ford Fiesta WRC) who made it an all-Michelin top three.

The WRC2 class was won by Mexicans Benito Guerra/Jaime Zapata (Skoda Fabia R5), ahead of Bolivia's Bulacia Wilkinson and his Argentine co-driver Fabian Cretu (Skoda Fabia R5). Both cars were equipped with Michelin tyres.

The next round of the 2019 FIA World Rally Championship will take crews to Corsica, France, for the all-asphalt Tour de Corse on March 28-31.

