

Boulogne-Billancourt, October 11th, 2020

2020 FIA World Rally Championship
Round 6: Rally Italia Sardegna

Hyundai to score double on Rally Italia Sardegna, relying on Michelin's expertise

Based on the data they have collected over the years in Sardinia and their grasp of how the island's stages evolve between the first and second passes, Michelin's engineers adjusted their approach to this year's Rally Italia Sardegna to take into account the likelihood of cooler, wetter weather due to the event's switch from June to October. As a result, the medium-compound MICHELIN LTX Force M6 was specified as the nominated tyre instead of the harder LTX Force H4 which was nonetheless available as an alternative.

Although the temperature in northwest Sardinia's Alghero region can frequently exceed 35°C in June, the thermometer rarely exceeded 20°C this time around, and the rally's early stages were still damp following storms earlier in the week.

"Our technicians foresaw this scenario, so a big bravo to them," says **Arnaud Rémy**, manager of Michelin's rally programmes. "It's not always easy to favour one type of tyre over another, especially when faced with a new situation. However, whether you're talking about the WRC class or the WRC2/WRC3 battle – for which we similarly went for the medium MICHELIN Latitude Cross M80 rather than the harder H90 – they made the perfect call and our partners were able to benefit from superior performance and greater confidence. The medium compound proved the unanimous choice for the morning stages but we saw a variety of strategies for the warmer, rougher conditions later in the day as a function of individual driving styles and preferences. Some drivers even chose to mix the two types of compound in order to optimise their performance over the afternoon loops, backed by advice from our technical advisors whose analysis and experience made a real difference once again."

Like the other two rounds (Estonia and Turkey) that have been held since WRC action resumed in September, the 2020 Rally Italia Sardegna ran to a shorter format, with the week's 16 stages totalling just 238.84 competitive kilometres instead of the usual 300-plus kilometres (total route length: 1,199.15km). Spectators weren't allowed on the stages, but visitors to the service park in Alghero were able to watch the teams at work and admire the cars in parc ferme from a safe distance.

The event was ultimately won by Dani Sordo/Carlos Del Barrio (Hyundai i20 Coupe WRC) ahead of Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul (Hyundai i20 Coupé WRC), with Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (Toyota Yaris WRC) rounding out another all-Michelin top three.

The fiercely competitive WRC2/WRC3 fight was topped by the Michelin-equipped Hyundai i20 R5 of Jari Huttunen/Mikko Lukka.



The next round of the 2020 FIA World Rally Championship will take teams to Ypres, Belgium, on November 19-22, ahead of the season's finale that the WRC's promoter has confirmed will take place in Monza, Italy, on December 3-6.

