



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Boulogne-Billancourt, January 29, 2022

Michelin excels in the opening two rounds of the 2021/2022 ABB FIA Formula E World Championship

- MICHELIN's Pilot Sport EV tyre was put through its paces on the Riyadh Street Circuit in Diriyah, Saudi Arabia, during two night races
- The versatile tyre handled big temperature differences
- The championship's new qualifying format placed additional emphasis on tyre strategy

Season 8 of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship got underway this weekend in Diriyah, a historic town located on the outskirts of the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh. Following the official group test held at the beginning of December in Valencia, Spain, this marked the return to the track for the 22 all-electric single-seaters which are equipped exclusively with Michelin tyres.

The Riyadh Street Circuit – very slightly reconfigured for the 2022 edition of the Diriyah ePrix – is 2.495km long and features 21 turns. This weekend marked the fourth consecutive season that the track has hosted Formula E, with resurfacing work having taken place this time last year to make it even smoother. The wind blows sand onto the circuit from the neighbouring desert, but this did not pose any problems for the MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV tyre developed specifically for the series.

To cover the first two races of the campaign, each driver was allocated a total of 12 tyres, with which they could devise their own strategy. Formula E's new qualifying format – which permits tyre changes at any moment during the initial two-group stage and in-between the ensuing head-to-head duels – enabled the teams to consistently choose the most appropriate tyre pressures and run fresh or scrubbed tyres as they wished.

*"The great strength of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV is its outstanding versatility," says **Mirko Pirracchio**, Manager of Michelin's Formula E programme. "This season, the event was held a month earlier in the year, and even if the climate in Saudi Arabia is generally mild, the surface temperature was still low at times, especially during the races which took place after nightfall. Nonetheless, in both qualifying – where drivers were particularly pleased to be able to deploy a proper tyre strategy as they moved through the phases – and in the races when the track temperature dipped as low as 13°C, the MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV offered an extremely high level of performance."*



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"All of the drivers were quick to praise how rapidly their tyres reached their optimal running temperature and their excellent level of grip, even with the presence of sand on the circuit. The new regulations also allowed the teams to benefit from the expert advice of our engineers, helping them to best manage and exploit their tyre allocation. These opening two races of the season have once again demonstrated how well-suited Michelin's tyre is to tracks that differ significantly from conventional circuits."

For the second time in Saudi Arabia and in the history of Formula E, the two e-prix took place at night, beginning just after 8pm local time, with the track lit by 600 floodlights powered by latest-generation LED technology – twice as energy-efficient as a traditional lighting system and fed by renewable electricity.

The first of the two Diriyah E-Prix, which raised the curtain on the 2021/22 ABB FIA Formula E World Championship campaign, was won by defending title-holder Nyck de Vries ahead of his Mercedes-Benz EQ team-mate Stoffel Vandoorne. Jake Dennis (Avalanche Andretti Formula E) rounded out the podium-finishers.

The second race, on Saturday, January 29, saw ROKiT Venturi Racing's Edoardo Mortara emerge victorious, from Robin Frijns (Envision Racing) and Lucas Di Grassi in the second ROKiT Venturi Racing entry.

The next round of the ABB FIA Formula E World Championship will take place in Mexico City on February 12.

Michelin's ambition is to improve the mobility of its customers over the long-term. As a leader in the mobility domain, Michelin designs, manufactures and distributes tyres best-suited to customers' needs and uses, as well as services and solutions to enhance vehicle efficiency. Michelin also offers its customers ways to enjoy unique experiences during their journeys and when travelling. In addition, Michelin develops high-tech materials for many sectors of activity. Based in Clermont-Ferrand, Michelin has offices in 170 countries, employs 123,600 people and operates 71 tyre factories which together produced around 170 million tyres in 2020 (www.michelin.com).

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