



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Boulogne-Billancourt – 5 June 2022

MICHELIN Power Slicks face tough test of Montmeló

- Fabio Quartararo (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP) wins the Catalan GP
- Aleix Espargaro (Aprilia Racing) sets new all-time circuit lap record of 1'38.742

Fabio Quartararo managed his Medium front and Medium rear MICHELIN Power Slick tyres impeccably to take on the heat and difficult track conditions at Montmeló and win the Gran Premi Monster Energy de Catalunya. Six and a half seconds behind, Jorge Martin (Prima Pramac Racing) crossed the line in second place, with his teammate Johann Zarco coming home in third.

Grip levels of the asphalt at the Montmeló circuit have gradually reduced since the resurfacing work carried out in 2018, and the high temperatures and humidity this weekend only made this situation worse, as the riders discovered almost as soon as they took to the track.

The tyre choice for the grid had the majority opting for the Medium front, with just the four KTM riders going for the Hard. For the rear, the grid was split between the Medium for those riders wanting grip from the first laps, and Hard for those banking on increased durability in the latter stages of the race. The only exceptions were Maverick Viñales and Alex Marquez, who both went for the Soft rear.

Free Practice Friday kicked-off in the morning with high track temperatures, which set the pattern for the whole weekend, and the riders went out on a mix of MICHELIN Power Slicks to get a feel for the grip of the track surface and start setting up their bikes. After lunch, the riders headed out for FP2 with the track at a sizzling 53 degrees C, and after most of the session working on set-up, they went into time attack mode searching for direct Q2-accessing lap times. Fastest on day one was Aleix Espargaro, who posted a lap time of 1'39.402.

The sunny weather continued on Saturday, with the morning's FP3 session starting in relatively cool conditions. This, along with more rubber having been laid on the track, allowed faster lap times than in FP2, and riders started to set lap times down into the 1'39s. Continuing his fast pace from Friday, Aleix Espargaro set the circuit on fire, topping the session with a stunning new all-time circuit lap record of 1'38.771.

In Qualifying, with track temperatures hitting weekend highs of 58 degrees C, Espargaro continued where he'd left off in FP3 by breaking his earlier all-lap circuit



MOTORSPORT

lap record with a lap of 1'38.742 on-board his Aprilia RS GP, fitted with Medium front and Soft rear MICHELIN Power Slicks, to put him on pole position for the race.

Speaking after the race, Piero Taramasso, Michelin Two Wheel Motorsport Manager, said: "The high temperatures throughout the weekend, combined with the challenging low-grip track surface were a real test for our tyres and the riders, but the slightly harder compounds that we brought this year still offered consistent performance and gave the riders the confidence to push for some very fast lap times.

"The lap times during the sessions were very close, highlighting the versatility of the allocation, and despite the very difficult conditions during the race, we saw that consistently fast lap times were posted by numerous riders, with four different constructors in the top six places. In addition, all three of our rear tyre options were in the top seven places, showing that they all worked here under these harsh conditions.

"Looking forward to next season, and in-line with the Michelin Group's 'All Sustainable' strategy, I was very pleased that we could share the news of Grand Prix Commission's announcement yesterday that from 2023 there will only be two rear MICHELIN Power Slick specifications available to the teams at each event. All riders will have the same allocation, comprising seven of the softer option and five of the harder option – which depending on the circuit could be Soft and Medium, Medium and Hard, or Soft and Hard".

About Michelin

Michelin, the leading mobility company, is dedicated to enhancing its clients' mobility, sustainably; designing and distributing the most suitable tires, services and solutions for its clients' needs; providing digital services, maps and guides to help enrich trips and travels and make them unique experiences; and developing high-technology materials that serve a variety of industries. Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 177 countries, has 124,760 employees and operates 68 tire production facilities which together produced around 173 million tires in 2021. (www.michelin.com)

MICHELIN GROUP MEDIA RELATIONS

+33 (0) 1 45 66 22 22

7 days a week

www.michelin.com

 [@MichelinPress](https://twitter.com/MichelinPress)



MOTORSPORT

27 cours de l'Île Seguin, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt