



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

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## **The 2021 6 Hours of Monza: last stop before Le Mans for Michelin and its partners**

Round three of the 2021 FIA World Endurance Championship (FIA WEC) takes teams to northern Italy for the 6 Hours of Monza on July 18. Autodromo di Monza is the world's second-oldest racing venue after Indianapolis in the USA and is reputed for the exceptionally high average speeds reach there.

Monza is also a technically-challenging track that requires a carefully-balanced set-up and where drivers need to be particularly adept at braking from high speeds at the end of the 5.793-kilometre loop's four long straights. Meticulous attention needs to be paid to the cars' aerodynamic settings, while the exit of the famous banked Curva Parabolica produces a 'launch' effect that catapults the most powerful prototypes to speeds in excess of 300kph along the start/finish straight.

This year, the Italian fixture takes on the role traditionally played by Belgium's TOTAL 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps as the last full-scale dress rehearsal before the Le Mans 24 Hours (August 21-22), so Michelin and its partners will use the weekend to work on the final details of their preparations for the French classic.

When planning their race strategies, the teams uses advanced simulation software and dialling the most accurate and pertinent data possible into their respective systems is key to making the best possible use of this digital assistance at Le Mans.

"The setting for round three of this year's FIA WEC is Monza which is a circuit steeped in motor racing history frequently referred to as the Temple of Speed," says **Pierre Alves**, manager of Michelin's endurance racing programmes. "The 6 Hours of Monza is a great place to prepare for Le Mans and will provide us all at Michelin Motorsport with an opportunity to evaluate our latest tyres at sustained high speeds. Its long straights give tyres a chance to cool, though, so we'll also be looking for fast warm-up performance, as well as high levels of mechanical grip under braking and through the few corners, like Curva Grande, Lesmo and, of course, Curva Parabolica, which are all right-handers. Our **Soft** and **Medium** compounds have been selected to provide our partner teams with the grip and consistency they need at Monza."

### **The MICHELIN Pilot Sport range for the new Le Mans Hypercars**

The new range of endurance racing tyres developed by Michelin for the LMH prototypes is tailored to the technical characteristics, weight and performance of



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the new class's different cars. It is the first range to have been designed exclusively using simulator technology, both with and without input from the drivers, but in the absence of either an actual or digital car.

Thanks to the might of Michelin's development and simulation tools and systems, as well as to the experience of its engineers, design work progressed quickly and in the right direction from the outset. This feat was all the more remarkable in that the sizes of the Le Mans Hypercar tyres are new. Michelin consequently switched from an iterative process based on experience, simulators, machines and track testing to an all-virtual approach.

### **New wet-weather tyres**

In keeping with changes to the regulations since last season, Michelin's 2021 endurance racing range features two wet-weather tyres instead of three previously. Its new DRYING WET option for conditions ranging from damp to drying covers a broader temperature spectrum, while the compound and characteristics of its FULL WET are designed for heavier rain and standing water.

### **Different size options**

The Toyota GR010 Hybrid and Alpine A480 Le Mans Hypercars run 31/71-18 tyres both front and rear, whereas Glickenhaus has opted for a new, asymmetric fitment of 29/71-18 at the front and 34/71-18 at the rear. The difference is due to the front/rear weight-splits of the cars as a function of their respective powertrain technologies. The Toyota GR010 Hybrid is the only prototype to have an electric motor in addition to its internal combustion engine.

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 170 countries, has 123,600 employees and operates 71 tire production facilities which together produced around 170 million tires in 2020. ([www.michelin.com](http://www.michelin.com))

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