

*2017 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)
Round 10: ADAC Rallye Deutschland*

***The MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5, MICHELIN Pilot Sport S5
and MICHELIN Pilot Sport FW3 play central role at Rallye
Deutschland***

Following the availability for the first time of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport FW3 in Germany this time last year, the 2017 ADAC Rallye Deutschland saw Michelin's WRC 'full wet' rain tyre make its competitive debut on the third asphalt contest of the season after the Rallye Monte-Carlo and the Tour de Corse-Rallye de France.

The route featured a total length of 1,165.25km, including 309.17km divided into 21 stages which provided crews with the event's traditional mixed bag of characteristics. Friday's tests through the Mosel Valley's vineyards saw heavy rain sweep over the area during the afternoon, while Saturday's programme took competitors to the awesome Baumholder military ranges and the infamous Panzerplatte runs. Having moved from its former base in Trier, this year's service park had a more rural setting on the shores of the Bostalsee lakeside activity centre, around 60km from the rally's previous headquarters.

Michelin's WRC partners were able to choose between the soft-compound S5 and the harder H5 MICHELIN dry-weather tyres, while the MICHELIN Pilot Sport FW3 was an alternative in the case of heavy rain. The Pilot Sport S5 tended to be the preferred choice for the weekend's mixed conditions, notably for the mornings' cooler temperatures, but the H5 appeared when the sun came out and for the weekend's longer stages. Meanwhile, the MICHELIN Pilot Sport FW3 showcased its value and performance potential when the weather took a turn for the worse on Friday afternoon.

"The MICHELIN Pilot Sport FW3 played a part in the fastest times Ott Tanak scored on SS6 and SS7," notes **Jacques Morelli**, the manager of Michelin's FIA WRC programme. "Thanks to their ability to combat aquaplaning, they enabled those drivers who chose it – notably for Friday afternoon's difficult conditions – to post the best times. This was the first time it had been used competitively and today's result shows that Michelin Motorsport's development experts have come up once again with a solution that truly addresses the needs of the drivers competing at this level. The latter part of the rally was a little more straightforward as far as the weather went, so it was perfectly logical to see the soft-compound MICHELIN Pilot Sport S5 and the hard-compound H5 step back into the limelight. The versatility of our range of WRC tyres means we are able to cover a very broad spectrum of conditions, and Rallye Deutschland can be one of the most varied rounds on the calendar when it comes to grip levels, weather and the time difference between the moment crews have to make their tyre choices and the start of certain stages. Our ability to respond to this variety is one of the reasons our partners have gone unbeaten since our return to the WRC in 2011."



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The drivers, too, were happy to praise the MICHELIN Pilot Sport FW3, including Citroën Racing's **Andreas Mikkelsen**: "Friday afternoon's downpour transformed the stages into mud-baths. Michelin's Full Wet was the right choice."

"Some drivers thought my tyre choice for Friday afternoon was rather odd," said M-Sport's **Ott Tänak**. "But I had total confidence in Michelin's full wet tyre and it worked very well. At the end of Leg 1, I was ahead."

The 2017 ADAC Rallye Deutschland was won by Ott Tänak and Martin Jarveoja (Ford Fiesta, M-Sport), followed over the line by Andreas Mikkelsen/Andreas Jaeger (Citroën C3 WRC) and Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (Ford Fiesta, M-Sport) who made it an all-Michelin top three.

The WRC2 victory went to French pair Camilli/Veillas (Ford Fiesta R5), ahead of Kopecky/Dresler (Skoda Fabia R5) from the Czech Republic and Swedes Tidemand/Andersson (Skoda Fabia R5). Again, the class's top three was monopolised by Michelin runners. The result of Rallye Deutschland means that Pontus Tidemand is the 2017 WRC2 world champion*.

Round 11 of the 2017 FIA World Rally Championship will now take teams to Spain on October 5-8.

() Subject to confirmation of the official results by the FIA.*



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