



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

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## **The MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV in its element as rain, heat and a 'green' track surface greet Formula E's players in the streets of Brooklyn, New York**

- The MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV enjoys successful first trip to Brooklyn's Red Hook district since its last visit to the New York borough in July 2019
- Superb views of Manhattan from the riverside track
- Halving of the tyre allowance for 2021 has no adverse effect on performance

With only four more e-prix to come this season (two in London, Great Britain, in a fortnight's time, plus two in Berlin, Germany, in the middle of August), the 2021 ABB FIA Formula E World Championship celebrated its fourth visit to New York in five years with another spectacular weekend of racing in Brooklyn's Red Hook district, a residential area that enjoys splendid views of Manhattan on the other side of the Hudson River.

The trip to New York marked a return to known territory for the Formula E teams and Michelin Motorsport for the first time this year since the campaign's opener in Ad Diriyah, Saudi Arabia. Between the two, the pandemic forced the championship's organisers to take in previously-unvisited permanent facilities in Spain (Valencia) and Mexico (Puebla), while both Rome, Italy, and Monaco made significant changes to their track layouts for their respective rounds.

### **Versatile tyres**

The trip to the USA was consequently a return to a more familiar setting, although New York can be the scene of extreme weather at this time of year. Following last week's heatwave in Canada, Michelin's technical staff had been expecting hot, humid conditions in Brooklyn. Instead, they were treated to a mini-hurricane that dumped huge quantities of water on the riverside circuit ahead of the weekend's action, followed by more rain – albeit lighter – on the morning of the first race day (Saturday).

The New York round's 2.320-kilometre, 14-turn loop used part of the Brooklyn ferry terminal's car park which has been less frequented in recent months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The track surface was consequently 'green' to begin with, but conditions improved as the weekend progressed and the drivers were able to count on the exceptional versatility of their MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV tires as they sought to find their marks.



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“Thanks to our past experience of Brooklyn, we were confident that wear wouldn’t be an issue in New York, despite the fact that the regulations have halved the tyre allocation per car for double-header meetings since we were last here,” notes **Jérôme Mondain**, the manager of Michelin’s Formula E programme. “The main challenge we faced ultimately took the form of stormy weather and the dirty track surface. You could be forgiven for thinking that the rain would have cleaned the asphalt, but rain can also draw out the hydrocarbons without washing away the dust. The combination of the torrential rain, heat and miscellaneous deposits on the track that we ended up encountering called for exceptional tyres capable of covering a broad spectrum of conditions, and the MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV stepped up to the occasion perfectly.”

### **The MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV; a truly extraordinary racing tyre**

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV that stars in the FIA Formula World Championship is currently the only 18-inch tyre to feature in world-class single-seater racing. Because of its tread pattern, it resembles a road tyre and is effectively the only racing tyre to guarantee safe performance on dry and wet tracks alike, while at the same time taking the sort of hazards associated with street circuits – such as drain covers, adverse cambers, painted road markings and tramlines – in its stride.

In addition to its hallmark versatility and longevity, it is capable of delivering consistent performance from the start to the end of each race day. The confidence it inspires led Formula E’s organisers, in accordance with Michelin and the FIA (Fédération Internationale de l’Automobile), to halve tyre allowances for the 2021 championship.

Drivers are effectively only authorised to use eight tyres for double-header meetings this year, compared with 16 previously. This measure fits perfectly with Michelin’s position with regard to the environment since it means manufacturing, shipping and recycling fewer tyres than is the case for any other FIA world championship.

As is the case with all of the different forms of motorsport in which it is involved, Michelin uses Formula E to evaluate new technologies, and the information it collects is fed into a data base which the brand uses for the development of its upcoming road tyres.

Since the inaugural FIA Formula E Championship in 2014, Michelin has shaved approximately 20 percent off the weight of its Formula E tyres. That’s equivalent to a saving of 9kg per car. Combined with their significantly lower rolling resistance, this technical feat has contributed to the all-electric cars’ extended range. The current MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV is the third generation of the original tyre that was developed for the series.



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### **MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV sizes**

In accordance with the system employed by Michelin Motorsport, the sizes of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV tyres used in Formula E are 24/64-18 (front) and 27/68-18 (rear) – i.e. tread width (cm) / exterior diameter (cm) / rim diameter (inches). That's equivalent to 245/40R18 (front) and 305/30R18 (rear) based on the system applicable to road cars – i.e. overall width (mm) / aspect ratio / rim diameter (inches). The letter R indicates 'radial'.

### **The FIA benefiting from Michelin's digital expertise**

Michelin Track Connect for Formula E allows tyre pressures to be monitored automatically and reliably – whether hot or cold. This new solution addresses a demand expressed by motorsport's governing body – the FIA (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile) – which incorporated its use into Formula E's regulations at the beginning of the 2019/2020 championship. The system also meets a requirement of the teams and the championship's promoter. Michelin Track Connect for Formula E uses a Michelin-designed and developed sensor embedded in a specific casing placed inside the MICHELIN Pilot Sport EV tyres that feature in the series. The data it collects is transmitted in encrypted form to the FIA and Michelin who are the only recipients. Not only does this guarantee that information remains confidential, but it also allows the FIA to check minimum tyre pressures are adhered to. In addition to saving time, it provides the teams with additional peace of mind and helps to streamline the running of race days.

### **2021 New York E-Prix results...**

The first of the weekend's two races was won by Maximilian Günther (BMW i Andretti), ahead of Michelin ambassador Jean-Eric Vergne (DS Techeetah) and Lucas Di Grassi (Audi Sport Abt Schaeffler).

The winner of Sunday's e-prix was Sam Bird (Jaguar Racing) who was followed over the finish-line by Nick Cassidy (Envision Virgin Racing) and António Félix Da Costa (DS Techeetah).

The 2021 ABB FIA Formula E World Championship's next port of call will be London, Great Britain, on July 24-25, when the teams and drivers will get to discover yet another new venue, with part of its course indoors.

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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