

**MICHELIN SHINES AS BRIGHT AS THE SPANISH SUN AS QUARTARARO IS VICTORIOUS**

Michelin's premiere of its new rear construction MotoGP™ tyres saw the all-time lap-record tumble in the sweltering Spanish sun this weekend as Fabio Quartararo (Petronas Yamaha SRT) took victory in today's eagerly awaited Gran Premio Red Bull de España from the Circuito de Jerez - Angel Nieto at Jerez in Spain.

The start of the 2020 MotoGP World Championship has been on hold due to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, but due to impressive efforts by Dorna, FIM, IRTA, local authorities and many others, the season was able to get underway at Jerez today. Major protocols were put in place to allow racing to go ahead, including having no fans filling the grandstands and hills around the track, but the racing was the star of the show and a much needed boost, as it was broadcast to millions watching around the globe.

Extreme heat has been a factor all weekend and today's race was no different as track temperatures soared to 53°C, making this the one of the hottest races since Michelin returned to MotoGP in 2016, the current high was at Catalunya in 2017, when the asphalt was recorded at 54°C. This intense heat around the 4,423m circuit has certainly been a thorough test for the MICHELIN Power Slick tyres, but one which the rubber has handled admirably and gives testament to the skill of the Michelin technicians that had to choose the correct allocation for a race that is usually held in the cooler temperatures of May.

Quartararo had been on form all weekend, breaking the outright lap-record on Saturday morning before surpassing that in qualifying as he set a time of 1'36.705 to take pole position. This lap was recorded using a hard front slick and a soft rear, the same configuration as favoured by most riders in today's 25-lap race - including Quartararo - a detail that emphasises Michelin's quest to build race tyres that have the facility for record-breaking single laps, whilst giving consistency, performance and grip for a long and demanding race such as today's. The Frenchman got a good start to the race, but was led into the first corner by Maverick Viñales (Monster Energy Yamaha MotoGP), before reigning World Champion Marc Marquez (Repsol Honda Team) took over at the front. Marquez started to pull away, but a mistake saw him slide into the gravel, he managed to stay onboard and re-joined the race in last place. He made an impressive battle through the field as he showed the immense grip from the MICHELIN Power Slick tyres to force his way into contention for second position, but he crashed and lost his chance of rescuing any points. Quartararo had made his way to the front on lap-nine and rode a smooth and demanding race to the flag, working in harmony with his tyres to increase the gap over his rivals and take victory by 4.603 seconds. The 21-year old Frenchman was only just born when France won its last premier class Grand Prix, after Regis Laconi was victorious on a Michelin-shod Yamaha at Valencia in 1999.

The battle for the podium places saw Viñales take second with a hard-charging Andrea Dovizioso (Ducati Team) in third; earlier in the weekend Dovizioso had set the record for top-speed at Jerez when he recorded a maximum of 296.7Km/h, adding another new record to Michelin's collection. Fourth was Jack Miller (Pramac Racing), with Franco Morbidelli (Petronas Yamaha SRT) coming home in fifth. Sixth place went to Pol Espargaro (Red Bull KTM Factory Racing), followed by Francesco Bagnaia (Pramac Racing). Miguel Oliveira (Red Bull KTM Tech 3) was eighth, ninth place went to Danilo Petrucci (Ducati Team) and Takaaki Nakagami (LCR Honda) rounded out the top-ten.



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Michelin and the MotoGP paddock will now remain at Jerez as the second round of this truncated season will take place at the same venue, but this time a new event will be contested as the Gran Premio Red Bull de Andalucía takes centre stage on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Michelin's new MotoE™ tyres give Granado a resounding victory**

Michelin saw its latest generation of MICHELIN Slick MotoE tyres lead the way during this weekend's proceedings, as the FIM Enel MotoE World Cup took centre stage as the first race to take to the track during the restart to this unusual season and Eric Granado (Avintia Esponsorama Racing) showed the full potential of the new tyres as he took control from early on and raced to a comprehensive victory.

After taking the top-spot on the grid during Saturday's E-Pole, Granado was beaten to the first corner by Lukas Tulovic (Tech 3 E-Racing), but the Brazilian soon secured first place and pushed his latest evolution of Michelin tyres - which feature new compounds and a new rear tyre construction, allied to the introduction of bio-materials and regenerated materials which are both more efficient and more environmentally friendly - to the full to take the chequered flag by a gap of over three-seconds. The battle for the remaining podium places was a frantic affair in the Spanish heat as a group of riders battled for the positions, exploiting the grip to the full, before last year's World Cup winner Matteo Ferrari (TRENTINO Gresini MotoE) took second, ahead of Dominique Aegerter (Dynavolt Intact GP).

Michelin's new tyres for MotoE are specially designed for the racing demands of the 100% electric Energica Ego Corsa motorcycles and performed strongly all weekend in the excessive heat that baked the circuit, plenty of data has been collected and will be analysed ahead of the next race, which will see the riders stay at Jerez for the second round of the World Cup, to be staged during the Gran Premio Red Bull de Andalucía on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Fabio Quartararo – Petronas Yamaha SRT:**

"The race was really difficult as I made a bad start, but I managed to get to the front and that felt great. I was so pleased to get my first victory and the tyres were feeling good. I had amazing grip from the tyres for the qualifying lap and felt so great in those conditions and I can't wait for the qualifying next Saturday."

### **Eric Granado - Avintia Esponsorama Racing:**

"It has been a great weekend and we worked a lot on the set-up of the bike. The new front tyre is a different feeling and at the start of the weekend I was struggling to understand it, but then - as always - when you have a change you have to set-up the bike to get the best from it and now we have a really good feeling from the tyres and I can really push the front. When I overtook Tulovic I was able to push on the front and I had a good feeling on the bike, for me the bike and the tyres were perfect and everything was ok. Now it is time to rest and think about next week and to try and maintain the good performance."



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### **Piero Taramasso – Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager:**

“The selection was similar for all riders today, all went with the soft rear, with just two choosing a different front, the soft, and everybody else on the hard. The soft rear featured the new construction which made its racing debut today and performed really well for everybody. The consumption was not that high, because we chose compounds we expected would work in this heat, so much so that the hard was not needed despite track temperatures of over 50 degrees every day. The soft rear gave good grip for the whole race and everything was under control because it worked so well. It was not easy to decide on the range for this week, because we usually come in May and then back in November for a test, so temperatures are much lower. We expected it to be hot, but not like it was and I want to show my respect to the Technicians that used computer simulations and previous data to make such a strong selection for this weekend.

“It was great to break the all-time lap-record this weekend and get the highest top-speed, these are always important for us as they show reward for the hard work. Congratulations to Fabio Quartararo on his first win, of what I am sure will be many MotoGP victories. He set a stunning lap in qualifying, demonstrating the one-lap ability of our tyres and then showed a maturity in the race to use the same configuration of tyres to take a comfortable victory.

“MotoE gave us another exciting race and Eric Granado showed how hard you can push on the new tyres, especially the front. The latest evolution of MotoE tyres has worked really well here this weekend, we introduced them with the sustainable materials and the new compounds, plus a new rear construction and the performance was impressive, especially when the track was so hot in the afternoons. MotoE is an important discipline Michelin and to be able to kickstart the MotoGP race-day with all the bikes using Michelin tyres was certainly a good moment for us. We will now assess all the information ahead of next week’s World Cup and look forward more exciting races as the season progresses.”



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