

**FIA Formula E Championship 2018/2019
Round 5: HKT Hong Kong E-Prix**

***The new MICHELIN Pilot Sport performs in Hong Kong's
shifting weather***

Sunday's Hong Kong E-Prix took place in the wettest conditions seen since the FIA Formula E Championship's creation in 2014. Although the weather for the E-Prix itself turned out to be relatively dry, showers and blustery wind ruined any hopes of a dry weekend and the 1.8-kilometre, 10-turn circuit was extremely wet from Saturday's shakedown run through to Sunday's qualifying session. The track then had time to dry out a little for the start of the race but many puddles still remained.

These conditions provided the MICHELIN Pilot Sport – which features a grooved tread designed to allow cars to race whatever the weather – with a first-class opportunity to showcase its exceptional versatility. And, while the rain and shifting conditions made setting up the cars particularly complex, Michelin's Formula E tyre was acclaimed by the drivers.

“Heavy rain throughout the week before the race washed the streets and the various practice sessions then helped to clean the racing line further still. This circuit's surface is extremely smooth, however, so grip levels were low,” observes **Serge Grisin**, the manager of Michelin's Formula E programme. “Although the conditions turned out to be almost entirely dry for the race, shakedown and the first free practice session, notably, were very wet, so our tyre needed to cover all these scenarios. And that's exactly what the MICHELIN Pilot Sport did, allowing the drivers to up their pace as race day progressed. This tyre gets up to its ideal working temperature particularly quickly and it is also very progressive, so it gives the drivers the reassurance they need to feel confident as soon as they leave the pits. In the sort of shifting, delicate conditions we saw in Hong Kong, that's a very important parameter.”

After receiving a penalty which put him back to sixth place, Sam Bird (Envision Virgin Racing) relinquished the victory of the 2019 Hong Kong E-Prix to Edoardo Mortara (Venturi). Lucas Di Grassi (Audi Sport Abt Schaeffler) is now second and Robin Frijns (Envision Virgin Racing) jumps on the third step of the podium.

The next round of the 2018/2019 ABB FIA Formula E Championship will take teams to China's Hainan Island for the first ever Sanya E-Prix on March 23. This will be Season 5's last race before the championship's five European clashes in Rome (Italy), Paris (France), Monaco, Berlin (Germany) and Bern (Switzerland).



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Michelin celebrates its 50th Formula E e-prix

Michelin, a founding partner of the FIA Formula E Championship, invited Formula E Holdings President Alejandro Agag to share an anniversary cake made by a leading Hong Kong pastry chef in the form of a tyre. The Michelin Man joined in the celebrations by serving guests.



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