



PRESS RELEASE

MOTORSPORT

Boulogne-Billancourt, France – October 30, 2021

6 Hours of Bahrain 2021

Michelin's FIA WEC tyres deliver impeccable longevity as Bahrain track temperature soars to 45°C

- Toyota Gazoo Racing dominates the Hypercar battle
- Porsche GT Team scoops first and second in GTE Pro
 - Another fiercely-fought battle in GTE Am

Compared with the same fixture in 2020, the first of Bahrain's back-to-back FIA WEC rounds was organised three weeks ahead of last year's slot in the calendar, and entirely in daylight. As expected, the drivers and their machines had to contend with stifling heat as the air and track temperatures in the Bahraini desert climbed to more than 34°C and 45°C respectively.

The possibility of blistering and degradation meant that the question of tyre reliability was one of day's chief talking points, but the MICHELIN Pilot Sport option engineered specifically to compete in this sort of heat took the hostile conditions in its stride, enabling the French firm's partners to count on their rubber's performance even at the hottest moment of the day.

The Hypercar teams were able to fit either the **Soft Hot Weather** or **Medium Hot Weather** variants of the MICHELIN Pilot Sport, while the GTE Pro and GTE Am runners had a choice between the **Medium** and **Medium Hot Weather** versions, all of which were developed to combine a certain degree of structural and compound flexibility with the capacity to handle exceptional hot weather such as this.

"The conditions for today's race were unprecedented for the FIA WEC teams here in Bahrain and uniquely challenging," observes **Pierre Alves**, manager of Michelin's endurance racing programme. "I would therefore like to congratulate all the drivers on having successfully double-stinted in spite of the physically exhausting heat. We were able to provide them with fast, dependable tyres, even though the thermometer exceeded 40°C for some nine-tenths of the duration. I would also like to underline the fantastic fight to which we were treated in GTE Am. Aided by the safe, high performance our tyres delivered from the first to the last kilometre, it produced plenty of exciting overtaking and action."

The 2021 6 Hours of Bahrain was won by Toyota Gazoo Racing who monopolised the top two places at the flag with the N°7 Toyota GR010-Hybrid of Conway/Kobayashi/Lopez and N°8 sister car of Buemi/Nakajima/Hartley. Third were Negrao/Lapierre/Vaxiviere for Alpine Elf Matmut.



MOTORSPORT

The GTE Pro class saw Porsche claim first and second spots, with winners Neel Jani/Kevin Estre (N°92 Porsche 911 RSR-19) and second-placed Gianmaria Bruni/Richard Lietz (N°91 Porsche) joined on the podium by Alessandro Pier Guidi/James Calado (Ferrari 488 GTE Evo).

Last but not least, the scrap in GTE Am kept spectators on their toes. Victory ended up in the hands of Keating/Pereira/Fraga, and their N°33 TF Sport-tended Aston Martin Vantage AMR was chased over the line by the Porsche 911 RSR-19s of Ried/Evans/Campbell (N°77, Dempsey-Proton Racing) and Perfetti/Cairolì/Pera (N°56, Team Project 1).

The last round of the 2021 FIA World Endurance Championship will be next weekend's 8 Hours of Bahrain – also at Sakhir International Circuit – on November 6. In keeping with tradition, the race will start later in the day and include five hours of night-time racing, which means one of the keys to winning the season's finale will be having the ideal tyres on the car at the right moment as the conditions cool after sunset.

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)

MICHELIN GROUP MEDIA RELATIONS

+33 (0) 1 45 66 22 22

7 days a week

www.michelin.com

 [@MichelinPress](https://twitter.com/MichelinPress)

27 cours de l'Île Seguin, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt, France