

## MEDIA INFORMATION

*2017 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)*

*Round 4: Che Guevara Energy Drink Tour de Corse-Rallye de France*

### *The MICHELIN Pilot Sport S5 and H5 take to the twisty mountain roads of the Tour de Corse - Rallye de France*

After the fiercely-fought start to the 2017 FIA World Rally Championship which has produced three different winners to date, round four takes teams to Corsica for the Tour de Corse-Rallye de France. In addition to having been brought forward in the calendar from its early-October slot in 2016, France's round of the WRC is the first pure asphalt fixture of the year following the wintry Rallye Monte-Carlo, snowy Rally Sweden and the all-gravel Rally Mexico. It is consequently another exciting chance to see the more powerful latest-generation World Rally Cars in action with their spectacular new aerodynamics designed to keep them glued even more to the road, and Michelin has had to address the challenge posed by the bigger constraints placed on its asphalt tyres by today's cars.

For the 2017 Tour de Corse – Rallye de France, the French firm will provide its WRC partners with a choice of three different tyres: the soft-compound MICHELIN Pilot Sport S5, the harder H5 version and the latest 2017-spec MICHELIN Pilot Sport FW3 (FW = Full Wet). Designed for use in heavy rain, the latter was made available for the first time at last year's Rallye Deutschland but has yet to be used on an event.

The 2017 Tour de Corse-Rallye de France features a total distance of 1,082.20km, including 10 special stages totalling 316.76km. The route is practically identical to that of last year but some stages have been shortened by 20 percent. For information, the total scheduled competitive distance in 2016 was 390km.

"The Tour de Corse's stages are notoriously hard wearing," notes **Jacques Morelli**, Manager of Michelin's FIA World Rally Championship programme. "It is the toughest asphalt round of the season and we expect our partners to favour the hard-compound MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5 which is ideal for this sort of rally. If the weather isn't too hot, however, or if we get some light rain, they will be able to opt for the softer S5 version of the Pilot Sport. Thanks to our experience of these two tyres, and from what we saw during recent testing in Corsica with our partners' latest cars, we have every confidence in their competitiveness and resistance to wear. This year again, the Tour de Corse-Rallye de France is likely to provide a spectacular show given the high power outputs and spectacular look of the 2017-generation cars."



**Didier Laurent** – [didier@autopressclub.com](mailto:didier@autopressclub.com) – Phone: +33.6.75.60.50.62

**Alessandro Barlozzi** – [alessandro.barlozzi@fr.michelin.com](mailto:alessandro.barlozzi@fr.michelin.com) – Phone: +33.6.42.23.55.93

## The MICHELIN Pilot Sport S5 and H5 in brief

Size: 225/40R18 (20/65-18)

Width: 225mm

Side wall height: 90mm

Interior diameter: 18 inches

Tread pattern: asymmetric and directional

Use: asphalt rallies (Rallye Monte-Carlo, ADAC Rallye Deutschland, Tour de Corse – Rallye de France, RallyRACC Catalunya – Rally de España)

## The MICHELIN Pilot Sport FW3 in brief

Size: 215/45R18 (18/65-18)

Tread width: 175mm

Tyre width: 220mm

Side wall height: 96mm

Interior diameter: 18 inches

Tread pattern: symmetric

Use: wet weather, standing water, heavy rain, asphalt only.

## Michelin Motorsport's staff at the 2017 Tour de Corse – Rallye de France

- **Pascal Couasnon**, Director of Michelin Motorsport
- **Olivier Vialle**, Marketing Director of Michelin Motorsport
- **Jacques Morelli**, FIA WRC Programme Manager
- 1 developer
- 4 team advisors
- 2 coordinators
- 8 fitters
- 1 press officer

Michelin has 1,990 tyres available for the 2017 Tour de Corse – Rallye de France (WRC: 790 / WRC2: 1,200).



**Didier Laurent** – [didier@autopressclub.com](mailto:didier@autopressclub.com) – Phone: +33.6.75.60.50.62

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