

MICHELIN HEADS TO PASTURES NEW AS THAILAND WELCOMES MOTOGP™

Michelin and MotoGP™ are embarking on a new chapter in Grand Prix motorcycle racing when the championship makes its first visit to Thailand as the Chang International Circuit prepares to stage the PTT Thailand Grand Prix.

Michelin heads to the 4,554m track with a strong line-up of tyres, which were chosen after a pre-season test at the circuit that is situated in Buriram, in north-eastern Thailand, approx. 400km from the country's capital Bangkok. The test gave Michelin valuable data about the high severity of the track and from this information a range of MICHELIN Power Slick tyres were selected. With Buriram being a new venue and from the data that was collated at the test, it has led to specific rear tyres being constructed to contend with high temperatures that will be generated. Michelin has brought four options of rear tyre for its first visit to the circuit, aimed at giving all riders and teams the best opportunity to get the optimum performance from their machines. These will be in soft, two mediums versions and hard and they will all be asymmetric, with a harder right-hand shoulder to cope with the circuit's layout of seven right-turns, against just five on the left. Michelin has chosen three front tyres for the allocation, which will be in soft, medium and hard compounds and will all have a symmetric design

The Chang International Circuit was opened in 2014 and has staged World SBK since 2015, its state-of-the-art facilities include some impressive grandstands around the track that will give good viewing opportunities to the 100,000 plus fans that are expected to pack the location on raceday. The weather in Thailand in October can be very changeable, as it is still officially the monsoon season, so wet weather could play an important part in the proceedings. With this in mind the MICHELIN Power Rain tyres could make a regular appearance. These will be available in a soft and medium front and a medium rear which will all be symmetric, with just the rear soft having an asymmetric finish with the harder right-side like the slicks.

The inaugural Thailand MotoGP weekend kicks-off with two Free Practice sessions on Friday, as the whole paddock will get its first competitive feel of the Buriram circuit. Saturday's timetable will have two more practice periods, before the qualifying takes place to decide grid positions for the main event. Michelin and the MotoGP field will take to the track on Sunday 7th October, as the newest edition to the motorcycling calendar gets underway at 14.00hrs local time (08.00hrs CEST, 07.00hrs BST, 06.00UTC), when the lights will change to signal the start of the 26-lap race.

Piero Taramasso – Michelin Motorsport Two-Wheel Manager:

“We had the pre-season test at Buriram and got some really valuable information. We have brought specific rears to this race which have been purposely designed for this track - the same as what we do in Austria and Australia, because these are very unusual circuits and require special tyres. These are completely new and were designed after the test, but before we had to give the allocation for the season, so we have two mediums, as this will allow us to decide which is the compound best suited to the track and assist with next year's allocation. It will also give all the riders the best options to get the most from their respective bikes. All the plans for dry track time could be wasted though, as it is the monsoon season in Thailand and there is a chance of wet weather. We hope this isn't the case, but if it does we have a range of MICHELIN Power Rain tyres that should be able to cope with whatever nature sends our way. We're really looking forward to the first visit to Thailand and expect a huge crowd, so we'll all want to put on a great show for them and Michelin will certainly play a part in that.”



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