

2017 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)
Round 11: RallyRACC Catalunya – Rally de España

Michelin's gravel, asphalt and rain tyres ready for mixed-surface action

The RallyRACC Catalunya - Rally de España (October 5-8) is based in Salou, a seaside resort on the Costa Daurada to the south of Barcelona, and is the only round of the World Rally Championship to feature a combination of dirt and asphalt stages. This time last year, Sébastien Ogier and Julien Ingrassia sewed up the 2016 title on this event in their Michelin-equipped Volkswagen Polo WRC after notching up the French tyre firm's 300th world class rally victory.

The format of this year's rally is very similar to that of last season, with a total distance of 1,297.62km to be completed, including 312.03km divided into 19 special stages. Two of those tests are new, while another will be run in the opposite direction.

The official start will take place in Salou on Thursday evening, followed the next day by the opening leg which will provide a menu of gravel action, with some portions on sealed surfaces. The long Terra Alta test often produces big gaps and once again promises to be the highlight of the day. Friday evening's service halt is longer than usual to give teams time to switch their respective cars from dirt to asphalt trim ahead of the all-asphalt legs two and three.

Saturday will take crews northeast of Salou for two attempts at a loop of three stages, followed by the classic super-special along the resort's seafront.

The competition will then conclude on Sunday with six more stages over the morning followed by the Santa Marina Power Stage.

For this complex programme, Michelin's partners will be able to choose from a range of five different tyres.

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5 and S5 (asphalt) and MICHELIN LTX Force H4 and S5 (gravel) will be on hand for the WRC runners, while their WRC2 colleagues will be able to choose between the MICHELIN Pilot Sport RH3 and RS (asphalt) and the MICHELIN Latitude Cross H90 and S80 (gravel).

The MICHELIN Pilot Sport FW3 will be available to competitors in both classes if the weather proves particularly wet on Legs 2 and 3.

"Over the years, those drivers who have succeeded in managing their gravel tyres the most efficiently over the first leg's asphalt portions have managed to pull out a handy advantage for the remainder of the weekend," notes **Jacques Morelli**, the manager of Michelin's FIA WRC programme.



Didier Laurent – didier@autopressclub.com – Phone: +33.6.75.60.50.62

Alessandro Barlozzi – alessandro.barlozzi@michelin.com – Phone: +33.6.42.23.55.93

“During August’s Rallye Deutschland, the drivers found the MICHELIN Pilot Sport H5 and S5 to be both durable and strong enough to cope with corner cutting, allowing them to focus wholly on the job of driving. The FW3 also demonstrated its potential in the very wet weather they encountered in Germany. The same three tyres will be on hand this weekend. For the gravel stages, the strength of the MICHELIN LTX Force S5 and H4 has always played a big role here in Spain. For sure, the fact that crews will need to manage their tyres over 74.6km of competitive action spanning all of six hours without service on Sunday promises to be a big challenge, especially if the weather is unpredictable. But it’s a challenge we relish.”

Michelin will have 2,104 tyres available in Spain (WRC: 932 / WRC2: 1,132). The WRC and WRC2 drivers will be able to use up to 28 and 32 covers respectively (including shakedown), while their total allocation is 28 asphalt tyres (WRC2: 26), 24 gravel tyres and eight rain tyres.

Michelin Motorsport’s staff for the 2017 RallyRACC Catalunya – Rally de España

Pascal Couasnon, Michelin Motorsport Director

Olivier Vialle, Marketing Director

Jacques Morelli, FIA WRC Programme Manager

4 team advisors (CTE)

2 coordinators

9 fitters

1 press officer



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