

2017 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC)
Round 8: ORLEN 74th Rally Poland

***The MICHELIN LTX Force S5 in control
on Poland's dirt tracks***

The 2017 Rally Poland will be remembered for the appalling weather and storms that swept over the country's Mikolajki region prior to the start and compelled the organisers to cancel Thursday's official send-off ceremony. There was copious rain, too, for the first day of action on Friday which made life complex for the crews who faced further mud on the final morning, Sunday.

Despite the adverse conditions, the cars still reached average speeds of almost 125kph on the high-speed yet narrow tracks, with top speeds in excess of 200kph in places. Only late-July's Rally Finland witnesses such fast stages.

The total length of this year's Rally Poland, which was based once more in the beautiful Masurian Lake District, was 1,422.63km, including 23 stages that totalled 338.34km.

The sandy ground visited by the event counts amongst the softest of the championship, yet the compact surface crust can soon become rutted, and mud was another problem this year. Thankfully, Michelin's WRC partners were able to count on the services of the soft-compound LTX Force S5 which, thanks to its broader operating window, was the weekend's nominated and was selected from start to finish. Similarly, the French brand's WRC2 crews opted for the soft MICHELIN Latitude Cross S80.

"First of all, I would like to congratulate Thierry Neuville on his victory today and Ott Tanak on his great run which contributed to the fight that kept us entertained for more than 20 stages before his off on the last morning," said **Jacques Morelli**, the manager of Michelin's WRC programme. "The new MICHELIN LTX Force S5, which was launched in time for March's Rally Mexico, where it excelled despite the heat, delivered superior performance once again on this weekend's wet sand in temperatures that failed to reach 20°C. It also showcased its versatility in Argentina and Portugal and its window is so wide that our partners are increasingly favouring it over the harder Michelin LTX Force H4 which was developed to cater for the demands of Rally Italia Sardegna, which is the hardest round of the season for tyres. The MICHELIN LTX Force S5 is emerging as one of the success stories of the 2017 WRC."

The 2017 Rally Poland was won by Thierry Neuville/Nicolas Gilsoul, ahead of Hyundai i20 WRC team-mates Hayden Paddon/Sébastien Marshall. M-Sport's Sébastien Ogier/Julien Ingrassia (3rd, Ford Fiesta WRC) made it another all-Michelin podium

There was one-two success for Michelin in WRC2, too, thanks to Skoda Fabia R5 crews Christian Veiby/Stig Rune Skjaermoen and Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson.



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THE MICHELIN LTX Force H4 and S5

The MICHELIN LTX Force H4 (hard compound) and MICHELIN LTX Force S5 (soft) were designed to cover the broad range of conditions encountered on the FIA World Rally Championship's gravel rounds and their specification was registered with the FIA (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile) prior to the start of the season. Because of the exceptional spectrum of temperatures, types of ground (soft, hard, rough, smooth, etc.) and weather (rain, dry, dust, mud) drivers can expect to face in the course of the year, the MICHELIN LTX Force H4 and S5 have to be extremely versatile. They consequently combine strength, resistance to wear and the consistent delivery of performance over even the longest loops of stages on events that range from hot and sunny, such as Rally Australia, to muddy Wales Rally GB. Michelin Motorsport's engineers benefited from the company's long and successful association with the FIA World Rally Championship to design these latest-generation gravel tyres. The lessons learned on the stages provide invaluable data for the development of Michelin road tyres, in keeping with the brand's policy of using motorsport as a proving ground for new technologies.

The MICHELIN LTX Force S5/H4 (for WRC crews)

Number of tyres available for Rally Poland: **700**

Number of tyres per driver: 28 (including 4 for shakedown) from an overall allocation of 28 S5s (soft compound) and 16 H4s (hard)

The MICHELIN LATITUDE Cross H90/S80 (for WRC2 crews)

Number of tyres available for Rally Poland: **722**

Number of tyres per driver: 26 (including 4 for shakedown) from an overall allocation of 26 S80s (soft compound) and 16 H90s (hard)



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