

Motorsports Nov 18, 2015

WEC: Season finale in the desert

After Porsche secured its first manufacturers' world championship since 1986 on November 1 in Shanghai, the next target is to try and take the drivers' title at the FIA World Endurance Championship's finale on November 21 in Bahrain.



LMP1-Preview:



GT-Preview:

Quotes before the race

Fritz Enzinger, Vice President LMP1: "With our early win of the manufacturers' title, which is, of course, particularly important to Porsche, we have been richly rewarded for our courageous technical design of the 919 Hybrid and for the intensive development work within the team. Now we're going for the drivers' world championship. One should never underestimate the uncertainties of a six-hour race, with heavy traffic and countless lapping manoeuvres. You're always in thin air at the limit. With the first phase of the race run when the sun is low and then with around two-thirds of the distance in darkness, we are facing additional challenges at Bahrain."

Dr. Frank-Steffen Walliser, Head of Porsche Motorsport: "This finale promises to be extremely exciting. The fact that all titles in the GTE-Pro class will be decided at the last race speaks volumes for the strength and balance of the grid, especially in this category, and it's a reflection of the competitive spirit shown by the manufacturers, drivers and teams over the entire season. Thanks to our Shanghai win, we have improved our chances of winning the title. In the second half of the season we launched a charge back to the top, and in Bahrain we'll now do everything we can to bring this endeavour to a successful conclusion and claim all three titles."

Please find quotes of the drivers in the press release under Downloads.

Fact and figures

There are different circuit layouts available in Bahrain, but the WEC runs on the same one as Formula One. One lap is 5.412 kilometres long and has eight right handers and six left handers. The start-finish straight is 1.090 kilometres.

The Bahrain International Circuit opened in 2004 and is located about 30 kilometres outside Bahrain's capital of Manama.

Over 30 islands in the Persian Gulf belong to the Kingdom. Its size is around 750 square kilometres – half the size of the city of London.

Bahrain has nearly 1.2 million inhabitants.

According to the rules, the Porsche 919 Hybrid can produce and use max 4.92 megajoule electricity per lap in Bahrain. At the same time, its fuel consumption per lap is limited to 1.501 kg. In normal racing mode (without any safety car periods) and given its maximum fuel cell capacity of 67.4 litres, the Porsche 919 Hybrid must refuel every 31 laps at the latest.

Refuelling and changing tyres may only be made sequentially, not at the same time. Only two mechanics may work simultaneously when changing tyres. That takes a lot longer than in Formula One, for example.

Drivers are normally only changed when new tyres are needed.

WEC rules call for averaging the fastest laps of two drivers in qualifying for the grid positions.

The Porsche 919 Hybrid has a power system that produces around 1,000 hp. Over 500 hp comes from the two-litre V4 turbo petrol engine, while the e-machine, fed by the two recovery systems, delivers more than 400 hp.

The Porsche 919 Hybrid accelerates from 0-100 km/h within 2 seconds and takes 4.5 seconds to go from 0-200 km/h.

Four types of Michelin tyres can be used: slick tyres for dry conditions, a hybrid tyre (no profile either but softer cover) for mixed conditions, wets and full wets for heavy or extreme rain. The full wet tyre manages to push up to 120 litres of water per second out of the way.

The Porsche 919 Hybrid was designed and built at the Porsche AG Development Centre in Weissach. A total of 230 team members work there.

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Downloads

Porsche Team Manthey well primed for the title-decider in the desert, press release, 11/16/2015, Porsche AG

Manufacturers' World Champion Porsche sets its sights on drivers' title, press release, 11/16/2015, Porsche AG

Videos

<https://player.vimeo.com/video/141887141>

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/Tg1JkiOqWmA>