



14/11/07

## **MICHELIN AWARDED AUSTRALIAN GT CHAMPIONSHIP TYRE CONTRACT FOR FIVE YEARS**

Michelin have been awarded the tyre supply contract for the Australian GT Championship for a five year period, the category management announced today.

'The Australian GT Championship is delighted to have reached agreement to extend its already long term relationship with Michelin to the end of the 2012 season with this new five year deal', Director Rachael Waggs said today.

'The plan is for a partnership with Michelin not only as a tyre supplier but also to develop marketing and promotional opportunities for both parties', she added.

'The Australian GT Championship together with the Porsche Drivers Challenge has shown outstanding growth over the past two seasons and our highly competitive, prestigious category fits perfectly with a legendary company like Michelin'.

Commenting on the contract, Mr Steven Vette, Managing Director of Michelin Australia said:

'We at Michelin are pleased to announce the formation of a strategic partnership with the Australian GT Championship from 2008. We look forward to building the relationship of the last few years and see strong synergy's between the GT Championship and our prestigious brand'.

Other key Michelin players in its association with the GT Championship are equally enthusiastic with Trevor Sheumack, Michelin Tyre distributor European Technique saying 'the long term contract would allow the opportunity to build on our existing partnership and grow with the category'.

'I'm sure that races like next month's Sandown GT Classic will take the GT Championship from strength to strength', he added.

Michelin Marketing Manager, Adam Storey said that 'Michelin Motorsport is an integral element to our ability to showcase our quality products in the extremes of motor racing. Building a long term partnership with GT will allow us to explore new ways for us to show our products performance through our retail dealers and our loyal customers'.

Michelin's pedigree with GT and Sports cars stems from success in races like the classic Le Mans 24 hour event , the FIA GT1 & GT2 categories along with being the official supplier to the FIA GT3 Championship.

The final round of 2007 Australian GT Championship will be held as the Sandown GT Classic from December 7-9 and will see the return of John Bowe (Lamborghini Gallardo) and John Kaias (Aston Martin).

Coming into the season finale Bryce Washington (Lamborghini Gallardo) holds a narrow adjusted points lead over Alan Simonsen (Ferrari 430 ) with David Wall (Porsche GT3 RSR) in third position while Damien Flack leads the Porsche Drivers Challenge, from Sven Buchartz and Paul Tresidder

The Sandown GT Classic has already gained added status with the board of CAMS approving the awarding of the Australian Tourist Trophy to the winners of the event.

**For more GT information visit the Championship web site at [www.gtchampionship.com.au](http://www.gtchampionship.com.au)**