



POWER IS NOTHING WITHOUT CONTROL

## *2015 Hungarian Grand Prix - Practice Sessions*

**TRACK TEMPERATURES IN HUNGARY SOME OF THE HOTTEST SEEN FOR TWO YEARS, BUT RAIN IS POSSIBLE FOR QUALIFYING**

**MERCEDES DOMINATE FREE PRACTICE SESSIONS, BOTH ON P ZERO WHITE MEDIUM AND P ZERO YELLOW SOFT TYRES**

**CURRENTLY 1.8 – 2.0 SECONDS PERFORMANCE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO COMPOUNDS AT THE TIGHT AND TWISTY HUNGARORING**

*Budapest, July 24, 2015* – Track temperatures at the Hungaroring yesterday were the hottest seen in two years, and while conditions were slightly cooler for free practice today, the temperature on track still peaked at 54 degrees centigrade in the afternoon, with ambient conditions of 35 degrees centigrade.

The extreme heat has led to stormy weather as well, with a downpour affecting the area yesterday and more potential rainstorms forecast for tomorrow afternoon – which could affect qualifying.

In the heat of both free practice sessions today, the Mercedes drivers were quickest, with championship leader Lewis Hamilton going fastest on each occasion, using the medium tyre in the morning and then the soft tyre in the afternoon.

So far, the performance gap between the two nominated compounds is in the region of 1.8 – 2.0 seconds, although this margin varies from team to team and is also influenced by track temperatures. The main factor this weekend is set to be thermal degradation, and as usual all the teams used the free practice session to judge how wear and degradation was affected with different fuel loads. But with many of the longest runs interrupted by red flags in both sessions, it was difficult to draw a firm conclusion.

The data will be used to calculate the optimal race strategy: which is particularly important at the Hungaroring, where overtaking is traditionally quite difficult. With two red flags during FP1 and one during FP2, the teams lost a bit of track time. As a result, FP3 tomorrow morning is set to be another important session as teams finalise their preparations for the all-important qualifying hour.

**Paul Hembery, Pirelli Motorsport Director:** “The heat here has been unbelievable and looks set to continue throughout the weekend, although there is a risk of rain as well, as we experienced yesterday evening. In the face of these punishing conditions, the tyres are standing up very well. We’ll analyse the data from all the long runs on the soft tyre this evening, but for now at least it’s looking like a two-stop race, with a performance gap of up to





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two seconds between the compounds. However, there were a number of red flags during the long runs, which makes some of the data inconclusive. ”

**FP1:**

1. Hamilton 1m25.141s Medium new
2. Rosberg 1m25.250s Medium used
3. Raikkonen 1m25.812s Medium new

**FP2:**

1. Hamilton 1m23.949s Soft new
2. Kvyat 1m24.300s Soft new
3. Ricciardo 1m24.451s Soft new

**Tyre statistics of the day:**

	Medium	Soft	Intermediate	Wet
kms driven *	2711	1266	0	0
sets used overall **	59	18	0	0
highest number of laps **	29	29	0	0

\* The above number gives the total amount of kilometres driven in FP1 and FP2 today, all drivers combined.

\*\* Per compound, all drivers combined.

**Pirelli fact of the day:**

Just over 1000 kilometres away from Budapest, Pirelli’s biggest single logistical operation of the year is taking place at the Spa 24 Hours in Belgium. The Italian firm is supplying 9,000 tyres and 57 cars, with the team of 55 fitters able to deliver a tyre every 15 seconds if necessary – all night long. Keeping them awake are approximately 5000 cups of espresso consumed during the 24 hours...

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**For further information please contact**

Roberto Boccafoli • +39 335 125 6694 • [roberto.boccafogli@pirelli.com](mailto:roberto.boccafogli@pirelli.com)  
(Head of F1 Press Office)

Maria Stella Narciso • +39 338 942 3585 • [mariastella.narciso@pirelli.com](mailto:mariastella.narciso@pirelli.com)  
Anthony Peacock • +44 7765 896 930 • [anthony@mediaticaworld.com](mailto:anthony@mediaticaworld.com)

Francescopaolo Tarallo • +39 334 684 4307 • [francescopaolo.tarallo@pirelli.com](mailto:francescopaolo.tarallo@pirelli.com)  
(Head of Product and Motorsport Communication)

Pirelli Tyre Press Office • +39 02 6442 4270 • [pressoffice@pirelli.com](mailto:pressoffice@pirelli.com)

