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Media Information

BMW Motorrad Motorsport

8th June 2021

BMW Motorrad Motorsport returns to happy hunting ground at Misano with the BMW M 1000 RR.

- **Third round of the season in the FIM Superbike World Championship 2021.**
- **Misano was the location of the first podium finish for the BMW Motorrad WorldSBK Team in 2019.**
- **Marc Bongers: "We are confident that we can put on a strong performance with the new BMW M 1000 RR at Misano".**

Munich. After the double-header in Spain and Portugal, BMW Motorrad Motorsport is now heading to the third round of the FIM Superbike World Championship 2021 (WorldSBK) at Misano, Italy. The circuit on the Adriatic coast has proved to be a happy hunting ground in the past. In 2019, the BMW Motorrad WorldSBK Team and Tom Sykes (GBR) celebrated the first podium finish there for a WorldSBK project that was still in its infancy. The Misano race did not take place last year due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

BMW Motorrad Motorsport is now hoping to build on that successful 2019 appearance at Misano with the new BMW M 1000 RR, which is in its first season as the WorldSBK race bike. Sykes will be joined by Michael van der Mark (NED) in the BMW Motorrad WorldSBK Team. Misano is the home race for the BMW satellite team RC Squadra Corse. Eugene Laverty (IRL) is competing for the Italian team. Jonas Folger (GER) from the BMW satellite team Bonovo MGM Racing is also very familiar with the circuit.

Quotes ahead of the Misano round.

Marc Bongers, BMW Motorrad Motorsport Director: "We are heading to Misano with plenty of optimism. The first two races of the season at MotorLand Aragón and Estoril took place on circuits that we already knew would be challenging for us. Nonetheless, we were able to record some satisfying results, and even more importantly, we were able to test our new BMW M 1000 RR extensively under racing conditions. We know where our strengths lie and where we still have some work to do. In Misano, the situation is completely different to how it was at the first two circuits on the calendar. We have some good memories of Misano and were able to show that how much we like this circuit at the last race there in 2019. Of course, we will never forget the first podium finish with Tom.

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Now we are confident that we can put on a strong performance at Misano with the new M RR."

Shaun Muir, Team Principal BMW Motorrad WorldSBK Team: "First of all, we are delighted to return to Misano after missing out last year. For sure, 2019 was a very good event for the BMW Motorrad WorldSBK Team and now to return with the BMW M 1000 RR will be good to compare our improvements. Hopefully we can repeat that success from 2019. We are going into the weekend both Michael and Tom coming back from Estoril with some new direction. For sure, Michael is starting to feel very acclimatised with his electronic feel of his M RR and that's really important. He is really starting to feel like the bike can do exactly what he wants and that's a good step for him so his confidence is very strong in that area. On the other side, Tom still has some concerns over his chassis direction and we will work on that in Friday's practices. But hopefully quickly Tom can get into a good rhythm and can prepare himself ready for Superpole and the races. We hope we can get some good conditions in the weather and we have some straight forward races with no weather causing any issues because the forecast predicts some thunderstorms around that time. Overall as a team, we are happy to return, we feel quite confident that the Misano circuit should be favourable for us and we are ready to get on track."

Michael van der Mark, BMW Motorrad WorldSBK Team: "Misano is one of my favourite tracks. I really missed going there last year. I love the circuit, I love the layout and I am looking forward to it. It's a completely different track again compared to Aragón and Estoril but I think it will suit the BMW very well and especially the way the bike is working now. After some good results at Aragón and Estoril a very different track and I think we can do really well there. Regarding goals for the weekend, I think it is still difficult to say where we expect to be but I think we should be close to the top five. We had some good results, the gap is still a little bit too big but I think the way the Misano track is we can do really well."

Tom Sykes, BMW Motorrad WorldSBK Team: "I am obviously looking very much forward to the Misano round of the WorldSBK calendar. It's a circuit I really enjoy. It will certainly be tight in terms of lap times as it is quite small and twisty so we're really looking to be competitive. We've had some strong results there in the past with the BMW S 1000 RR so hopefully with the updated M RR we can improve on those. That's certainly my target and it would be fantastic. We've had a podium success there so if we could do something similar this weekend it's what we need. Overall, it's a fantastic location and I am looking forward to getting out there."

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Eugene Laverty, RC Squadra Corse: "I'm heading to Misano feeling very optimistic. I set modest goals for myself last time out due to the fact that Estoril was the toughest track on the calendar for us last year. However, I far exceeded my expectations so my confidence is high going to a track that I really enjoy. The new BMW M 1000 RR has made a huge step forward this year and I'm very thankful for the hard work done by everybody at BMW Motorrad Motorsport during the winter months. I have gelled very well with my new team RC Squadra Corse and we're ready to begin moving up the order. The first two rounds were like pre-season testing for us. I feel that our season begins properly at round three at Misano."

Jonas Folger, Bonovo MGM Racing: "I am looking forward to Misano. It will be interesting to see how the BMW M 1000 RR feels on this circuit. I am hoping for a consistent weekend, and that we can finish in good positions. I think we will be satisfied with that. I also hope that we can settle on the right basic set-up for the bike at Misano which we can then use in the other races."

Track Facts Misano.	
Circuit length	4.226 km – clockwise
Corners	16 – 10 right-handers, 6 left-handers
Pole position	Right
Longest straight	510 metres (start-finish straight)
Grip level	Medium
Track layout	Several long straights, partly fast corners, hard braking zones
Strain on brakes	Medium
Amount at full throttle	30 %
Topspeed / lowest speed	276 km/h / 55 km/h
Best overtaking opportunity	T1, T8
Key factors	Good feeling on the brakes, stability, traction

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