

## LEWIS HAMILTON GOES FASTEST ON P ZERO PINK HYPERSOFT WITH A TIME CLOSE TO THE 2017 POLE

### A SLIPPERY SURFACE AND HIGH TRACK EVOLUTION AS EXPECTED ON FRIDAY AT SOCHI

#### PERFORMANCE GAPS EVENLY MATCHED BETWEEN ALL THREE COMPOUNDS SO FAR BUT FULL PICTURE STILL TO EMERGE

*Sochi, September 28, 2018* – Using the P Zero Pink hypersoft tyre in Russia for the first time, Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton claimed fastest time in free practice ahead of his team mate Valtteri Bottas, on the same compound.

His time was already close to the 2017 pole, but the slippery and dirty surface in Sochi means that big track evolution is a common feature, with drivers often struggling to find optimal grip. This resulted in some cases of surface graining on the hypersoft, which should reduce when more rubber is laid on the track.

The drivers used the opening sessions to find out about all three compounds in Sochi, assessing their speed against likely durability on differing fuel loads. These calculations will form the basis of a race strategy, on a circuit where the generally low energy demands on tyres have to be balanced against the well-known challenge of Turn 3, which can take a lot out of the rubber.

#### MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

*“With the track always evolving so quickly in Sochi, it’s not easy to draw any firm conclusions on a Friday. However, we’re seeing that the lap times are getting dramatically faster throughout each session. The compounds also seem to be quite evenly spaced out in terms of performance, which is what we wanted to achieve with the ‘step’ between the nominations. It was important for the teams to find out as much about the hypersoft here as they could, to see how it could fit into a race strategy. Balancing the load between the front and rear tyres, given the quite different demands between the first and third sectors of this circuit, is likely to be a key to success in Russia”.*

#### FREE PRACTICE 1 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Vettel	1m34.488s	HYPERSOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m34.538s	HYPERSOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m34.818s	SOFT NEW

#### FREE PRACTICE 2 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Hamilton	1m33.385s	HYPERSOFT NEW
Bottas	1m33.584s	HYPERSOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m33.827s	HYPERSOFT NEW

### FP1 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
SOFT	Hamilton	1m34.818s
ULTRASOFT	Hamilton	1m35.326s
HYPERSOFT	Vettel	1m34.488s

### FP2 - BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
SOFT	Raikkonen	1m35.424s
ULTRASOFT	Hamilton	1m34.245s
HYPERSOFT	Hamilton	1m33.385s

### MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SOFT	Sirotkin	26
ULTRASOFT	Stroll	27
HYPERSOFT	Magnussen	22

### TYRE STATISTICS OF THE DAY

Kms driven*	1234	2083	3160
Sets used overall**	12	24	49

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

\*\* Per compound, all drivers combined.

MIN. STARTING PRESSURES (slicks)		EOS CAMBER LIMIT	
	21.5 psi (front)   21.0 psi (rear)	-3.25° (front)   -2.00° (rear)	

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