

Press Release

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Malaysian Grand Prix race report

MIGUEL AND MAHINDRA MAKE RACING HISTORY IN MALAYSIA

Sepang, Malaysia, October 13, 2013: Portuguese rider Miguel Oliveira made history for India's first and only motorcycle constructor in international motorcycle racing today, fighting back from a weak start to claim a first-ever top-three podium finish for Mahindra's MGP30 Moto3™ racer.

The 18-year-old from Pragal qualified on the second row, but bogged down off the line, near the back of 32 riders into the first turn, and finished the first lap in 14th place. But he was already cutting his way through, and by lap five was with the big leading group and still gaining places. On lap three, he set a new lap record, for the third time this year.

By the mid-point of the 18-lap, 99.864-km race at the Sepang circuit outside the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, Miguel was moving to fourth in a fearsome close group, and then to third. But positions were changing from corner to corner as the top championship contenders fought tooth and nail.

There were still six in contention as they started a thrilling last lap. Oliveira fought like a tiger to retain third place, the first rostrum for the MGP30 in its first season of racing. The 250cc single-cylinder machine, still in its first year of development, was designed and built in record time over the winter, and has threatened the top machines ever since its debut.

Miguel was just 0.408 seconds behind winner Luis Salom (KTM). The first six crossed the line within just over one second.

The podium has been tantalising the team all season. Oliveira has qualified on pole position at earlier races, and has been fourth on three occasions.

Team-mate Efrén Vázquez made a flying start from eighth on the grid, and was holding his own in the leading pack, and fighting for position when he slipped off on a slow corner, remounting only to retire.

The result is a historic achievement for Mahindra and for India, and a valuable boost for the championship. Miguel has closed to within six points of a top-five position. Mahindra has also gained ground on second place in the Constructors' championship, just five points off second place.

The next race, the second of three in a row, is the Australian Grand Prix at Phillip Island next Sunday.

In another important step for the team, Mahindra Racing has also signed a new agreement to add another pair of Mahindra MGP30 machines to the Moto3™ grid in 2014. French team CIP Moto3 will run two of the Swiss-built, Indian racers in the ultra-competitive grand-prix class.

The deal means that six of the competitive prototype 250cc single-cylinder Mahindra race bikes are scheduled to be on the grid in 2014, with CIP joining the official Mahindra Racing entry as well as Ambrogio Racing. The Ambrogio team became Mahindra's first racing customer in September when South African Brad Binder and Germany's Luca Amato switched to the MGP30 for the remainder of this season.

MIGUEL OLIVEIRA – Third Place

“After the start I made I didn't expect the podium! I knew I could do it, but I had to recover a lot of time, and take a lot of risks in the first laps, in the braking areas and also with corner speed. This is not easy on the tyres, so in the last laps it was really hard to control the bike. I think Mahindra and the team deserve this podium, and I think more. With the end of the championship coming up the leading riders will feel the pressure, and we can try to take advantage of that.

“Phillip Island is a nice track, where you don't need so much engine power. It's always windy, and it depends on the compromise you can make with the frame and on aerodynamics, my position on the bike. There are a lot of long corners and banked corners and also hard braking, and I can gain time there. I was second there last year, so I'm looking forward to going back.”

EFRÉN VÁZQUEZ – Did Not Finish

“I had a good start and I was trying to push from the beginning. This is a difficult track because the other bikes are much slower on corner entry, they block the way so you lose speed on the straights. I was trying to brake a little harder to gain places, and I lost the front wheel. It was a little crash, but unfortunately something on the bike broke, and I couldn't restart.

“We'll see in the next race: I think Phillip Island should be good for Mahindra – our bike is very good in fast corners.”

MUFADDAL CHOONIA – CEO, Mahindra Racing

“This is a red-letter day in Indian motor sport history – the first time ever that a motorcycle developed by an Indian company has finished on the podium at the highest level of motor sport. I sincerely congratulate and appreciate the efforts of Miguel and the entire Mahindra Racing team, who played a leading part in creating this moment of racing history.

“Now the next goal: we look forward to winning grand prix races.”

Ends

About Mahindra Racing

Mahindra Racing became the first Indian team to participate in the FIM MotoGP™ World Motorcycle Racing Championship in 2011 and the Italian National Motorcycle Racing Championship (CIV) in 2012.

Competing in the Moto3™ class in MotoGP, Mahindra Racing entered the 2013 season with its own new 4-stroke, single-cylinder, 250cc, motorcycle: the Mahindra MGP30 developed with respected Swiss firm Suter Racing Technology AG. Experienced Spanish rider Efrén Vázquez (27, from Bilbao) is teamed with exciting Portuguese teenager Miguel Oliveira (18, from Pragal near Lisbon). The team has been recording consistent Top 5 finishes and has already achieved a pole position and two circuit lap records in the World Championship. The team continues to be in the Top 3 in the Constructors' rankings.

In the 2012 CIV season, Mahindra Racing competed in the 125 GP Class and became the first team from India to win an international motorsport event, eventually recording six victories from eight races and securing the Constructors' Title. In the 2013 CIV season, the team entered the Moto3 (250cc – 4 stroke) class with talented riders Andrea Locatelli (16, from Alzano Lombardo) and Michael Rinaldi (17, from Rimini, Emilia-Romagna) and made motorsport history by winning the prestigious Constructors' Title for the second consecutive year. Both Locatelli and Rinaldi finished the season in first and second place with 167 and 145 points respectively.

Breaking new ground as an Indian Constructor, Mahindra Racing made history in Indian automotive engineering, when Ambrogio Racing – a team in the Moto3™ World Championship decided to switch to the MGP30 racing bikes, becoming Mahindra Racing's first customer.

Mahindra's bold decision to take on the world's best at the highest level of motorcycle racing won the team prestigious awards such as the 'ZigWheels Motorsport Award of the Year, 2012', and the NDTV Car and Bike Awards 'Mobil 1 Motorsport Award of the Year, 2012'.

For further information please visit: www.mahindracing.com.

About Mahindra

The Mahindra Group focuses on enabling people to rise through solutions that power mobility, drive rural prosperity, enhance urban lifestyles and increase business efficiency.

A USD 16.2 billion multinational group based in Mumbai, India, Mahindra employs more than 155,000 people in over 100 countries. Mahindra operates in the key industries that drive economic growth, enjoying a leadership position in [tractors](#), [utility vehicles](#), [after-market](#), [information technology](#) and [vacation ownership](#). In addition, Mahindra enjoys a strong presence in the agribusiness, aerospace, components, consulting services, [defence](#), energy, [financial services](#), industrial equipment, logistics, [real estate](#), retail, steel, [commercial vehicles](#) and [two wheeler](#) industries.

In 2012, Mahindra featured on the Forbes Global 2000 list, a listing of the biggest and most powerful listed companies in the world. In 2013, the Mahindra Group received the Financial Times 'Boldness in Business' Award in the 'Emerging Markets' category.

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