



PRESS RELEASE

**PIRELLI ANNOUNCES HARD AND SOFT PZERO COMPOUNDS
FOR THE FIRST FOUR GRANDS PRIX**

Milan, February 16th 2011 - Following an extensive campaign of private testing - which took in more than 18,000 kilometres in Europe and the Middle East - plus three group tests to date, Pirelli has nominated the hard and soft dry tyre compounds for the first four rounds of the 2011 Formula One World Championship: Bahrain, Australia, Malaysia and China.

The hard tyre will be the prime tyre, whereas the soft will be the option. This decision has been made in accordance with the track characteristics in the Middle and Far East, which offer high grip and a wide variety of speeds and corners, as well as ambient and track temperatures that are likely to be high.

The hard tyre offers an excellent balance between performance and durability in the tough conditions of the first four flyaway races. However, the soft tyre will give extra speed at the expense of resistance, which will make for some fascinating strategies as the teams compete with their new cars for the first time. Pirelli's aim is to have two pit stops at every race, helping to increase the spectacle.

Pirelli's Motorsport Director Paul Hembery commented: "The valuable data that we've collected from both official and private testing has shown us that our nomination of hard and soft tyres is the best way forward for both the drivers and the spectators, so we look forward now to a successful Grand Prix debut and a great show in the Middle and Far East over the next four races. We've enjoyed great collaboration with the teams so far, and with the nominated compounds for the next four races now known, I am sure that this will help to focus their development for the start of the season."

Copyright-free images as well as videos and interviews are available for media use at: www.pirelli.com/pressarea

For further information please contact:

Alexandra Schieren	+33 607 03 69 03	alexandra.schieren@pirelli.com
Anthony Peacock	+44 7765 896 930	anthony@mediatica.co.uk