

Ivalo, 30 November 2015

THE IVALO ARCTIC ICE TESTING CENTRE (FINLAND) IS USED TO TEST TYRES IN WINTER CONDITIONS AND IS NOW OWNED BY THE MICHELIN GROUP



The Michelin European Technology Centre has officially acquired the Arctic ice testing centre at "Fox Farm", Ivalo (Finland) to reinforce its testing and approval operations for winter tyres for passenger cars, vans and trucks.

As a pioneer in the 1980's, Michelin has operated the site for more than 20 years, on an exclusive basis, regularly carrying out its testing and approval operations for winter tyres here. By acquiring ownership of the site, Michelin guarantees that it can control its own test equipment and top up its winter testing resources, which range from Alpine passes to the Finnish plains, not forgetting indoor infrastructures.

The extreme climatic conditions at Ivalo and the quality of the snow, which has a different consistency to Alpine snow, guarantee an optimal test environment. In fact, 3 PMSF (3 Peaks Mountain Snow Flake, the European logo for winter tyre performance) certified tyres are partially tested at the Ivalo site.

KEY MICHELIN FIGURES: TESTING TYRES IN WINTER CONDITIONS:

- ✓ **2000** winter tyres were tested by Michelin in **2014** at the Ivalo tracks, including **400 truck tyres** and **1600 Passenger car and Van tyres**
- ✓ 1/3 of these tyres are from the X Ice range, specifically developed for extremely cold areas such as the Nordic countries and Russia.
- ✓ 2/3 of these tyres are from the Alpine range dedicated to the rest of Europe.
- ✓ **270,000 km** have been covered on snow and ice in winter conditions in areas above arctic circle, since the first series of winter tests in 1988, i.e. an average of 10,000 km each year, plus an additional 2000 km of tests carried out in Alpine conditions in southern Europe each year.

4 other countries where Michelin tests tyres in winter conditions:

- ✓ France
- ✓ USA
- ✓ Japan
- ✓ Sweden

Types of tests carried out at Ivalo:

- Start-up / acceleration on snow
- Braking on snow
- Traction on snow
- Timed testing for behaviour on snow
- Transversal grip on snow
- Traction on ice
- Braking on ice
- Transversal grip on ice
- Timed test circuits on ice
- Stud ejection (nordic tyres)
- Start-up on ice

Identity card of the Ivalo site:

Located 300 km to the north of the Polar circle, with temperatures ranging from 0° to -30° (from November to end-March)

Site covering 60 hectares with 20 hectares of tracks:

- 1 snow test track with a length of 1.7 km
- 5 x 500 - 800 metre platforms for longitudinal testing (braking and acceleration)
- 2 ice tracks
- 4 circular tracks for testing transversal grip
- 1 x 8% ramp dedicated to start-up / acceleration tests

Technical buildings (assembly, tyre storage and vehicle maintenance)

Michelin's mission, as leader in the tyre industry, is to make a sustainable contribution to the mobility of people and goods. To this end, the Group manufactures, markets and distributes tyres for all types of vehicles. Michelin also proposes innovative digital services, such as digital management of vehicle fleets and mobility support tools. It publishes tourist guides, hotel and restaurant guides, maps and road atlases. The Group, with its head office in Clermont-Ferrand (France), is present in 170 countries, employs 112,300 people worldwide and has 68 production sites in 17 countries.

In 2016 Michelin will celebrate 70 years of operations in Finland.

The Group has a technology centre responsible for research and development located in Europe, North America, and Asia. (www.michelin.com)

