

Four Acura ARX-01b Cars Sport Michelin Tires in 2008

Michelin posted a “perfect” record in 2007.

The world’s largest tire manufacturer demonstrated the most dominant performance for any tire company in the 10-year history of the American Le Mans Series.

And Acura’s ALMS debut was part of Michelin’s remarkable record.

Acura’s shocking LMP2 victory at the 12 Hours of Sebring with the Andretti Green Racing trio of Bryan Herta, Tony Kanaan and Dario Franchitti started Michelin’s perfect season that saw wins in every category at every race in 2007.

The numbers don’t lie: 48 class wins in 12 races, 81 new track records and 100 percent in class victories, race victories, lap records and championships.

The renowned tire supplier continued its sensational performance in one of the world’s toughest races, the legendary 12 Hours of Sebring, with Michelin’s ninth straight win on the airport strip in central Florida.

In 2008, Michelin continues its relationship with Acura Motorsports as the official technology partner for four Acura ARX-01b machines.



The four Acura sports car organizations— Andretti Green Racing, Highcroft Racing, Lowe’s Fernandez Racing, and de Ferran Motorsports—enter the season following last year’s initial Acura factory-supported effort that scored one win and 10 podium finishes on Michelin tires during the 12-race campaign.

The Acura sports cars utilize special Michelin rubber, including 285/650R18 tires on the front and 325/650R18 on the rear.

“We are extremely pleased to use Michelin rubber on our Acura ARX American Le Mans Series cars,” said Erik Berkman, president of Honda Performance Development (HPD), which also develops the Acura V-8 engine in the four Acura cars. “In our first season in ALMS competition, we learned a large amount about our Acura cars and engines. The Michelin tires were a solid foundation for our group’s continued progression on our learning curve. Acura and Michelin have enjoyed a long-standing relationship on the production-car side, so it was a great fit to extend that partnership to Acura’s first factory-supported racing program.”

Michelin is pleased to have Acura as a racing partner.

“We were delighted that Acura chose Michelin as its technical partner in ALMS competition,” said Bill Guzick, Chief Operating Officer for Michelin Automotive Industry Division.

“The long and successful tradition that Honda and Acura bring to motorsports will be a great benefit to the American Le Mans Series and sports-car fans. They have an outstanding reputation for developing technology, and, like Michelin, have a strong corporate culture of ‘Excellence through Engineering’.”

Berkman knows the Michelin record on track is legendary.

“Michelin owns an unsurpassed record of success in sports-car racing,” he said. “Michelin accomplished a truly amazing record in 2007 with perfect performance from its teams, drivers and machines. The consistency of Michelin’s products has been an assistance to Acura’s performance, and we are sure it will continue in 2008.”