

Press Release

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FINAL MOTOGP TEST BEGINS FOR REPSOL HONDA TEAM

The final round of MotoGP testing ahead of the 2010 season commenced today under floodlights at the Losail International Circuit near Doha, the capital city of Qatar. The Repsol Honda Team was back in action at the venue which will host Round One of the World Championship in a little over three weeks' time, with riders Dani Pedrosa and Andrea Dovizioso running through a series of tests in preparation for the night race here on Sunday 11 April.

As the sun set over the desert circuit, the factory Honda riders ventured out on track shortly after the pit-lane opened at 6pm to begin their first evening's work. Dovizioso and his crew evaluated a series of settings adjustments to the new-for-2010 Honda RC212V including an updated swingarm and an altered riding position. He finished the day with a best lap time of 1m 56.811s which put the Italian in 6th place.

After a steady start, Pedrosa made progress through the evening as he and his team continued their work in pursuit of the optimum settings for suspension and chassis. The Spaniard tested modified chassis components and reported an improvement during the six-hour test period, with further progress expected tomorrow. He finished the day in 10th place just a quarter of a second behind his team-mate with a best lap of 1m 57.047s.

The Repsol Honda Team will complete another evening at Losail tomorrow, which will mark the end of winter testing and the beginning of the build-up for the eagerly anticipated first race of the season.



ANDREA DOVIZIOSO- Best lap 1m 56.811s- 65 laps

"I'm quite satisfied because I could lap consistently tonight - which gives us a good base for tomorrow, when the target for us will be to lap in the low 1m 56s. Today we changed my riding position a little bit and the feeling was very good. We also tested a different swing arm which allows us to use some different set-up options. Compared to the Sepang test I'm more satisfied with where we are and we could lap well in the first part of the session, although after 10pm the grip changed each time we went out on track. We didn't reach our full potential today, so I think that tomorrow we can improve further."



DANI PEDROSA- Best lap 1m 57.047s- 60 laps

"We made some progress today and moved forward from where we were at the last test in Malaysia - this is positive. I'm confident that tomorrow we can take some further steps and get closer to the front, and we'll be working hard to make sure that happens. Our issues are still with making the rear suspension work well for us and also with the bike feeling quite nervous under acceleration and going into the corners. So these are the areas we'll be thinking about overnight and focusing on tomorrow. We've got one testing session to go so we'll be looking to make the most of it."

Official lap times

1. Valentino Rossi 1:55.402
2. Casey Stoner 1:55.717
3. Ben Spies 1:55.954
4. Colin Edwards 1:56.540
5. Randy De Puniet 1:56.588
6. Andrea Dovizioso 1:56.811
7. Jorge Lorenzo 1:56.838
8. Nicky Hayden 1:56.855
9. Mika Kallio 1:56.923
10. Dani Pedrosa 1:57.047
11. Loris Capirossi 1:57.099
12. Marco Melandri 1:57.605
13. Hector Barbera 1:57.822
14. Hiro Aoyama 1:57.888
15. Marco Simoncelli 1:57.891
16. Aleix Espargaro 1:57.898
17. Alvaro Bautista 1:57.960