

News Release

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Flinders University to be leading light in solar challenge partnership

It's a match made in the heavens. Leading light in solar technology research Flinders University and the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge are embarking on an historic partnership to usher in a new generation of solar vehicles, via the world's pre-eminent solar challenge event.

The organisations are delighted to announce a new sponsorship agreement that will boost the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge's research strengths by harnessing the talents of the state's leading nano-technology university.

Event Director Chris Selwood says the sponsorship agreement will be the first time in its 28 year history that a University has invested directly in the Event.

"It is a fitting, well-matched partnership in more ways than one," Chris says.

"Along with our partners, supporters and event teams, Flinders University shares the vision of the world's most sustainable electric vehicle becoming a reality. By utilising its cutting-edge research and development facility at Tonsley Park as a catalyst, Flinders University plans to take a leading role in that vision and to use the world's largest solar challenge as the proving ground," Chris says.

"A team of university faculty and student researchers will participate as a non-competitive team in 2015 event to gather data before unveiling their new vehicle in time for the 2017 event. The Flinders University Victoria Square campus will also be transformed between 18-25 October, as it becomes Event Mission Control with the perfect vantage point of overlooking the official finish line."

As the fastest growing university in South Australia (home of the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge) the Flinders University emblem even portrays the crest of a radiant sun," he says.

Flinders' Executive Dean of Science and Engineering Professor Warren Lawrance says Flinders University is excited to be able to bring a new generation of solar thinking to the development of its 'smart car of the future'.

"The 2015 Challenge presents Flinders with the opportunity to develop a prototype vehicle that we hope will go on to have widespread practical application – our ultimate vision is for a fully autonomous, driverless, solar powered vehicle to ferry passengers between our campuses" Professor Lawrance says.

"As South Australia's hub of innovation and design, Tonsley Park is a fitting location for a new generation of electric vehicles. Its advanced technology, research and innovation has the potential to design and deliver an intelligent car of the future, which will spearhead our assault on the 2017 Challenge," he says.

"We look forward to 2015 and beyond, with more teams, more countries, more rivalry and more innovation, it's going to be brilliant. We hope to add even more light", Professor Lawrance concluded.

For more information visit www.worldsolarchallenge.org

Event media contact: Judi Lalor + 61 0409188129



Twitter: @WorldSolarChlg Facebook: WorldSolarChallenge



Flinders
UNIVERSITY
inspiring achievement

Bridgestone World Solar Challenge Backgrounder

www.worldsolarchallenge.org

The world's biggest solar challenge began in 1987 and is an adventure that occurs once every two years. This year's Bridgestone World Solar Challenge is the event's 13th crossing of Australia. 46 teams from 25 countries are striving to make the Darwin start line on Sunday 18 October, in their bid to deliver the world's most efficient electric car.

Three classes of vehicle, Challenger, Cruiser and Adventure, will take on the Aussie outback in a contest of endurance, strategy and innovation. They are united in their aim – to complete the crossing of the continent from Darwin to Adelaide, some 3000 kilometres to the south, on the power of the sun. The elite Challenger Class is conducted in a single stage from Darwin to Adelaide, with the Adventure Class enjoying a compulsory stop in Alice Springs; the unique nature of the event is that teams set up camp each night wherever they happen to be. In addition, 2015 will see the second running of the Cruiser Class, created to encourage the design of practical electric vehicles where success is judged on a range of design and performance measures.

The only certainty is that with more teams, more countries, more rivalry and more innovation, the stage is set for a total eclipse of past events and achievements.

Twitter: @WorldSolarChlg

Flinders University Backgrounder

Flinders University enjoys a well-justified reputation for excellence in teaching and research, and a proud record of community engagement.

In 2015 Flinders University invested \$120 million into a state-of-the-art redevelopment at Tonsley, confirming its commitment to innovation, commercial venture success and engagement with business. It centrally locates Flinders University's School of Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics with the Flinders Medical Device Research Institute and the Centre for Nanoscale Science and Technology alongside some of Adelaide's biggest businesses and industries. In doing so, Flinders is redefining the traditional role of a higher education provider in a way that binds the University into the future economic and social fabric of southern Adelaide and beyond.

Flinders University's investment in the redevelopment of Tonsley is an investment in the future of South Australia where collaboration, innovation and entrepreneurship are at the heart of its activities. The focus is firmly on the delivery of high impact solutions to real-world problems that will improve lives and build businesses here and globally.

www.flinders.edu.au

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