



News Release

Monday September 21, 2015

Going for gold – solar teams light up at Victoria Park

Sunglasses may be required to watch the most successful solar race team in North America, US 'golden' team, University of Michigan (U-M), take on compatriots Stanford Solar Car Team (SSCP), America's top solar team, and local first time entrants, the University of Adelaide, in a few laps of friendly rivalry around the Victoria Park Criterium on Monday September 21, 2015.

In the lead up to this year's Bridgestone World Solar Challenge, the U-M team, who touched down in Adelaide last week, will spin the wheels of their million dollar machine, 'Aurum' named after the Latin word for gold, on the renowned city track more famous for horsepower of a different kind. Also in town, the rival Stanford team are out to prove their revolutionary 'Arctan' also has the Midas touch. But new kids on the block, Adelaide University Solar Racing Team, (AUSRT), don't intend to be overshadowed, saying their car 'Lumen' (Latin for light), is capable of shining just as brightly.

Minister for Tourism, Recreation and Sport Leon Bignell said Victoria Park, with its renovated grandstand, offered the perfect spectator vantage point to view the vehicles.

"Next month, these three teams will take their cars 3000 kilometres across the Australian Outback from Darwin to Adelaide. It really is a sight to behold," Mr Bignell said.

"The Bridgestone World Solar Challenge involves 46 teams from 25 countries, many of whom arrive weeks in advance, injecting more than \$9 million into the state's visitor economy," Mr Bignell said.

U-M Industrial and operations engineering student and Team Leader, Pavan Naik, said his team had been made welcome in Adelaide and was looking forward to taking on the famous Australian outback conditions.

"With the help of Prince Alfred College and the friendly and supportive faculty, staff, and students, we've got a great second home here in Adelaide," Pavan said.

"We are highly motivated this year as we celebrate our 25th anniversary of solar car racing. U-M's team finished third in this Challenge three times and in 2015 we aim to be number one on the podium. We've taken inspiration not just from a quarter-century's worth of U-M cars – but also from the rest of the field.

"In Aurum we've worked on improving what we had before – we think it's better than the competition. We've optimised mechanical systems, and our solar array has the best cells on the market with a unique coating to make them even more efficient. Our light weight aerodynamic design is also unorthodox. We simulated more than 100 different geometries to find the most streamlined shape and placement of the driver and switched the steering wheel from the left side to the right in order to hug the interior of the road," Pavan said.



Stanford Team Lead Guillermo Gomez, said his team were also highly motivated to do well in the Australian Challenge considered the most challenging and competitive solar car race in the world.

"I am inspired by the nonstop dedication to quality of workmanship, beauty of design, performance and teamwork we as a family have sustained leading into the Challenge. We expect to do well in the race and grow even closer together as a team," Guillermo said.

"Our solar car name Arctan is especially significant because it commemorates Bryant Tan, a former team member who sadly passed away last year in a mountaineering accident. Arctan, an inverse trigonometric function, symbolizes his engineering passion, along with his last name.

"For our 12th vehicle ever, we focused on improving average race speed to complete the course faster than ever before, while maintaining a sense of team culture. Weighing in at just 400 pounds, Arctan generates less than half the aerodynamic drag of a cyclist and can cruise continuously at over 80 kilometres per hour on solar power alone," Guillermo said.

Adelaide University Solar Racing Team Manager, Daniel Haynes, acknowledges his team, with its first solar powered car produced by The University of Adelaide, could be considered the underdogs when it comes to the big budget, more experienced teams. But he was quick to point out that the AUSRT team is an energetic, dynamic group of young aspiring engineers with an innovative solar car with some unique features of its own.

"As one of the newest solar teams in Australia, we aim to challenge some of the world's best solar cars, such as Michigan's Aurum, this year and into the future. This year's project will provide a platform for the University of Adelaide to build on," Daniel said.

"What's unique about us, compared to other teams, is we've produced the entire vehicle ourselves, from our own method to manufacture the solar array to producing our own aluminium and carbon fibre wheels, which we expect to reduce the wheel weight by 25%.

"We've never been shy of a little competition and rivalry – bring it on," Daniel said.

Event Manager Chris Selwood said today's 'lap challenge' was a chance to see one of the events highly competitive 'big guns' Team Michigan in action for the first time alongside a dedicated first-time University of Adelaide team.

"That's what this competition is all about. The opportunity to bring together the world's best, to push boundaries, both in a physically enduring sense, and intellectually, through engineering, science and innovation. Wouldn't it be wonderful if technology introduced for the first time, by teams like those we have here today, found its way into mainstream motoring – giving us the first sustainable electric vehicle. Now that would be a truly golden moment," Chris said.

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For more information visit www.worldsolarchallenge.org



Bridgestone World Solar Challenge Media Background

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.

