



News Release

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Top Secrets Revealed Under Scrutiny

Every World Solar Challenge reveals at least one secret, closely guarded by its team.

Today was the first behind the scenes look at the international 'top guns' and new-look Cruisers – the cars of the future, on the scrutineering floor together for the first time.

Millions of dollars of high-end technology and innovation on show. Netherlands Nuon Solar Team, 2013 champions, had kept their car, 'Nuna 8' under wraps until today. They think their design will give them an aerodynamic edge. Things too seem to be falling into place for American Solar Champions, University of Michigan, whose solar car 'Aurum' had people talking at the testing track. They are on show today along with their US compatriots, Stanford University with 'Arctan'. For the first time in the event, team UKZN, South African Solar Champions will take to the floor with their car 'Hulamin'.

Eyes will also be on the highly evolved Cruisers, introduced to the event for the first time in 2013, these solar electric cars may be closer to the mainstream but way ahead in their technology and energy management systems. The Cruiser Class will be closely contested this year, and three teams with high expectations were on show today. Netherlands 2013 winners, Eindhoven presented 'Stella Lux' an intelligent, solar-powered family car that generates more power than it uses; HS Bochum's 'SunRiser' is impressively sleek with advanced interior design and Uni NSW Sunswift team hopes their sports coupe, 'eVe' will be one of the fastest in the Challenge. The static scrutineering process is a rigorous testing procedure to ensure the solar vehicles are 'fit' for the 3,000 kilometre challenge before them and that they comply with Event regulations. During the session the solar electric vehicles are dismantled and reassembled; drivers are weighed and ballast is allocated if required to meet regulations.

Event Director Chris Selwood said 2015 Scrutineering would be one of the most testing, but also one of the most innovative.

"After the journey to Darwin teams must now pass another crucial stage in the Event, scrutineering. Teams must comply to achieve road registration for their solar vehicles to be allowed to compete. Safety is paramount and teams who fail in the first round have further opportunities to re-present. Our ultimate goal is to have all competitors take to the start line in State Square on Sunday 18 October," Chris said.

"Our philosophy of introducing new regulations each Event pushes the teams to re-think and innovate. I expect the scrutineering will reveal further advances in technology and break-throughs in energy storage," Chris said.

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For more information visit www.worldsolarchallenge.org



Bridgestone World Solar Challenge Media Background

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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.

