



News Release

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CARS OF THE FUTURE SET TO TAKE ON THE GREATEST OF CHALLENGES

The largest, most competitive field ever is converging on Darwin from all corners of the globe for this year's 2015 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge. Teams from 25 countries are taking on the ultimate endurance challenge in the harshest of climates in a bid to prove they have what it takes to shape our driving future. The 3,000 kilometre event will be flagged off from the State Square in Darwin on Sunday 18 October at 8.30 am, contested by 46 teams.

The stakes are high. The investment in the millions. The prize – a more sustainable future for generations. Unprecedented preparation and testing has been taking place with top teams arriving in Australia months ago.

The Australian flag is being flown this year by five teams: in the elite Challenger Class, Clenergy team Arrow were the best placed of the Aussies in 2013 finishing 7th. Their fastest time trial lap gave them the honour of pole position, which they hope to defend this year in their Arrow1-GT (Grand Tourer). Western Sydney University, in their car 'Unlimited' are also looking for a top five finish and will be out to prove themselves as a more experienced team this year. Adelaide University Solar Racing team in their car 'Lumen' – Latin for light are first time entrants. Considered underdogs in comparison to the big budget, more experienced teams, they are hoping their innovative solar car can hold its own. University NSW Solar Team Sunswift and their solar sports coupe 'eVe' was the fastest Cruiser in 2013 but didn't take home the win when it came to the subjective categories of design and consumer appeal. In the Adventure Class, TAFE SA's Solar Spirit 111 is confident their experience will get them over the line.

But the Australian's face hot competition. All eyes will be on 2013 title holders and 5 time winners, Nuon Solar team from the Netherlands who have been keeping their car 'Nuna 8' tightly under wraps. They'll have to get past arch-rivals Japan's team Tokai, in 'Tokai Challenger'. The most successful solar race team in North America, USA Solar Champions, University of Michigan, will be spinning the wheels of their million dollar machine, 'Aurum' named after the Latin word for gold in celebration of their 25th anniversary of solar racing. Using that to inspire them, they are hoping for their first win in Australia.

Others to watch include Netherland's Team Twente, keen to show their car, Red One is just as capable of shining; the always competitive Belgium's Punch Powertrain Solar team in 'Punch One', the first asymmetrical four wheel car the team has built; and Stanford University, highly motivated, consistent performers who have named their car 'Arctan' in memory of a team member Bryant Tan, who passed away last year in a mountaineering accident. The Cambridge University Eco Racing Team in their car 'Evolution' continue to push the boundaries of innovative, aerodynamic design. They did not make the start line in 2013 and are hoping 2015 will be a completely different story.

Event Director Chris Selwood said with the strength of the field, and fickleness of nature, the winners could come from anywhere.



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“The only certainty is the unpredictability of this epic journey. With four new countries from Thailand, Hungary, South Africa and Poland we have new cars purpose built for this event and in the case of the highly evolved new Cruisers, technology edges closer to the mainstream,” Chris said.

During the event week millions worth of technology and countless hours of effort will be seen making their way along the Stuart Highway travelling through control check points at Katherine, Dunmarra, Tennant Creek, Barrow Creek, Alice Springs, Kulgera, Coober Pedy, Glendambo and Port Augusta. Lead cars could reach the Victoria Square finish line in Adelaide as early as late Wednesday or early Thursday morning. The fastest Cruisers, with a mandatory overnight stop in Alice Springs, are expected late Thursday or early Friday morning.

For further event media information please contact:

Judi Lalor + 61 409188 129 media@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.