Aussie team takes pole, as grid positions decided…

Australia’s solar car ‘Arrow 1’ from the sunshine state of Queensland has claimed pole position in the Elite Challenger Class for tomorrow’s start of the 2013 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge.

Team Eindhoven from the Netherlands and their world’s first family four-seater car ‘Stella’ posted the fastest Cruiser Class time and the second fastest time overall in today’s qualifying trials at Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex, Darwin.

In the Elite Challenger Class, Kogakuin University’s solar car ‘Practice’ from Japan was six seconds behind Arrow 1 and just over one second ahead of ‘Luminos’ the Stanford Solar Car from USA.

Team Arrow, unofficially billed as the dark horse of the competition, qualified with the fastest lap time of 2:00:1 minutes and an average speed of 86.93 kilometres. Team Eindhoven completed their lap in 2:05:1 minutes with a speed of 83.45 holding off the ‘top gun’ elite teams and demonstrating practical technology can still mix it with the best when it comes to speed.

Also flying the Aussie flag in the Elite Challenger Class: Sydney’s University of Western Sydney in their car ‘SolAce’ posted a time of 2:42:9 minutes taking 17th position; in the Cruiser Class University of NSW in ‘eVe’ posted 2:31:5 taking 4 position; TAFE SA in their car Solar Spirit 111 posted a time of 2:43:8 taking 7th position; and in the Adventure Class Melbourne’s team Aurora posted a time of 2:32:9 and will be second in their class on the grid.

Of the ‘top gun’ elite teams Solar Team Twente, and their ‘Red Engine’ will be fourth to leave the start, followed by Team Michigan of the USA in fifth. Last year’s winners team Tokai from Japan showed their stability on the track dealing calmly with a corner spin. Although well back in the field in 20th place with a time of 2:46:7, the experienced team are well aware they have plenty of time to catch the leaders over their 3,000 kilometre journey.

Tomorrow Team Eindhoven will proudly lead the field of the inaugural Cruiser Class at 8.15 am followed by Team Arrow and the Elite Challengers at 8.30 am. A field of 39 cars from 22 countries will take part. The Cambridge University team officially withdrew from the competition due to technical difficulties.

Event Director Chris Selwood reminded competitors it is not the start of this event, but the finish that’s key and 3,000 kilometres is a long way.
M E D I A  R E L E A S E

“We wish all participants a safe journey as they take on the adventure of a lifetime chasing the sun from Darwin to Adelaide,” Chris said.

Solar cars are expected to begin arriving at State Square early tomorrow morning from around 6am. A breakfast will be available for spectators for a gold coin donation courtesy of Conoco Phillips with proceeds to the Smith Family.

Start line details: 2013 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge

Where: State Square Darwin – steps of Parliament House

Times:

From 6 am: cars arriving
8.15 am: Chief Minister flags off Cruiser Class
8.30 am Chief Minister flags off Challenger Class

Adventure Class to follow...

For further event media information please contact: Judi Lalor + 61 (0) 409188 129
E: media@worldsolarchallenge.org

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