

MEDIA RELEASE



Thursday 10 October, 2013
3 PM Darwin Time – provisional results Day 5

FLYING DUTCH SHINE THROUGH THE CLOUDS CONTEST FOR SECOND

The Nuon team from Delft University, the flying Dutch in the Netherlands claimed their title back today in the Challenger class as they crossed the finish of timing line first in the 2013 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge at 10.03 Darwin time. They took 33.05 hours to drive their car, Nuna 7, 3021 kilometres on solar power averaging a speed of 90.71 kilometres per hour.

The jubilant team and support crew celebrated briefly in Angle Vale as their time was recorded before driving to the Official Finish Line in Adelaide's Hindmarsh Square. Champagne flowed as team did not let the lack of a fountain stop them from the traditional dunking synonymous with the finish line. They'd organised their own wading pool to ensure the tradition continued.

It was a close fought battle until the last 50 kilometres. The gallant team Tokai from Japan gave it all they had. The two teams shared the final checkpoint in Port Augusta just minutes apart. But as the rain came down and the clouds rolled in it became clear the Japanese team in their solar car Tokai Challenger were not going to be able to close the gap. There was drama for Team Tokai who were forced to stop and recharge. They were able to travel slowly into Angle Vale at 1.22 pm Darwin time in a time of 36.37 hours with an average speed of 82.43 kilometres per hour. Team Tokai were not able to proceed to the Official Finish line as they did not have enough solar power to travel at a safe speed in traffic. The question is now whether Team Twente from the Netherlands can reach the finish of timing and continue on to Hindmarsh Square.

Stanford from the US is currently in 4th, Belgium's Punch Powertrain is in 5th position, followed by Solar Energy Racers who are now south of Port Augusta. Australia's team Arrow are in 7th position and are expected to cross the finish line around midday tomorrow. Onda Solare from Italy and Blue Sky Solar from Canada are also in top ten position and still proceeding on solar power.

Closing the gap on the Challengers, are the Cruiser Class who left Coober Pedy this morning. Australia's UNSW Sunswift solar sports car eVe, is now just 50 kilometres behind Team Arrow, followed by the Hochschule Bochum team from Germany and Team Eindhoven from the Netherlands. All Cruisers are expected into Adelaide tomorrow, judging will occur over the weekend.

In the Adventure Class, the Aurora team from Australia continue to dominate closing on many Challenger solar cars. The stage is set for more dramas tomorrow on the final leg to Adelaide. Provisional times & updates will be available following close of day five, 5pm Darwin time.

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